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No.362

August 30, 2009

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'BLOODGATE' DOC STILL AT WORK IN A&E

Consultant accused of wounding player

THE doctor who allegedly used a scalpel to deliberately injure the rugby player at the centre of the 'bloodgate' scandal is continuing to treat patients at a Kent hospital.

Wendy Chapman, who works as an A&E consultant at Maidstone Hospital, is caught up in the affair that saw Guinness Premiership side Harlequins use a fake-blood capsule during a Heineken Cup quarter-final against Leinster on April 12.

In the latest allegations, wing Tom Williams testified in an appeal against his ban that Dr Chapman deliberately inflicted a wound on him after he left the field with a fake mouth injury.

She was one of two doctors employed on the match day by the club to deal with blood injuries. Dr Chapman could face an investigation by

 By **JENNA PUDELEK**

the General Medical Council (GMC), which has the power to strike her off the doctors' register and remove her right to practice medicine. She could also face disciplinary action by the rugby authorities.

The original European Rugby Cup (ERC) hearing into the incident cleared Dr Chapman, 46, of misconduct, but her evidence is now at odds with Williams' account of events.

A spokeswoman for the British Medical Association (BMA), which sets policies on medical ethics as part of its remit, said: "If this is true, there is an issue of deliberately cutting someone's mouth to further a cause when they were not sick to start off with."

"It is not so much an ethical issue... it is a conduct issue, something you would find your-

self in front of the regulatory body for. It is up to the GMC to investigate."

A spokesman for Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust said the organisation was not commenting on the case. But he confirmed that Dr Chapman, who lives in Sevenoaks, worked in A&E at Maidstone Hospital and she was continuing with her duties. Asked if there were any plans to suspend her over the allegations, he said "it's not a matter for us".

The GMC said it could not confirm whether it was investigating the case of Dr Chapman because until a hearing is scheduled the regulator has a duty of confidentiality to the doctor and any complainant.

A spokeswoman said Dr Chapman was still fully registered.

The scandal has already seen the club's former director of rugby Dean Richards suspended

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO


Picture: GETTY IMAGES

PHONEY: Harlequins' Tom Williams leaves the field with fake blood around his mouth

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TODAY: Following a dry start with sunny intervals, it will turn rather cloudy, although it will stay dry. A predominantly cloudy evening. A moderate wind. Max temp 18-21C (64-70F). **TONIGHT:** Remaining rather cloudy with few if any clear spells. Moderate south-westerly winds. Min temp 14-17C (57-63F).

Around Britain

Aberdeen	cloudy	13-16	London	cloudy	20-28
Belfast	rain	12-14	Liverpool	rain	19-26
Birmingham	rain	18-24	Manchester	rain	19-26
Bristol	drizzle	18-24	Newcastle	drizzle	19-26
Brighton	drizzle	17-23	Nottingham	cloudy	21-27
Cardiff	rain	18-24	Oxford	drizzle	19-26
Cork	rain	18-24	Southampton	drizzle	19-26
Edinburgh	rain	18-24	Sheffield	drizzle	19-26
Glasgow	rain	17-23	Southport	rain	19-26
Isle of Man	rain	18-24	Swansea	rain	18-24
Leeds	rain	17-23	Torquay	rain	17-23

Sun & moon

Sunrise	5:04am	Sunset	7:49pm	Lighting up times
Moonrise	5:26pm	Moonset	12:11am	7:46pm to 8:01am

High Tides

	Today	tomorrow
Dover	07:54 5.1 20.39 5.3	08:11 5.3 21.46 5.5
Margate	08:15 5.7 21.18 5.7	08:42 5.9 22.42 5.9
St Mary's	01:18 4.0 14.02 4.3	02:43 4.1 15.08 4.5

Week ahead

Monday Sunny spells max 28C min 15C	Thursday Showers max 20C min 12C
Tuesday Mainly fine max 28C min 12C	Friday Mainly fine max 28C min 12C
Wednesday Largely dry max 28C min 14C	Saturday Generally dry max 28C min 12C

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Printed by Archant Print.

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Joy at exam success

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

GCSE results in Kent have improved for the 14th year running, with more pupils than ever achieving top marks in English and maths.

A record 51.6 per cent scored five A* to C grades including the two key subjects – up 1.8 per cent from last year – while the number of those achieving the same grades in all subjects has increased by 4.8 per cent to 72.4 per cent.

The latter statistic puts Kent five per cent ahead of the national average, having improved year on year since 1995.

Cllr Sarah Hohler, cabinet member for education at Kent County Council, said she was delighted: "We have very good teachers in Kent and we organise our schools and partners well so there is effective sharing of advice and resources."

"Of course we have the grammar schools, but we also have excellent high schools like Fulston Manor in Sittingbourne, which achieved a 10 per cent increase on last year, which I'm really pleased about."

When asked if she thought GCSEs were getting easier, Cllr Hohler said: "I don't think they are, but everyone is taking the same



Picture: ANNA WHITE

More than half the year group at Maidstone Girls' Grammar scored at least five A* or A grades in their GCSEs. Of the entire year, 47 achieved at least 10 A* or A grades. Overall, 57 per cent of grades were A*s or As. Sarah Piggott – pictured above, flanked by fellow pupils Lydia Payle (left) and Hannah Lloyd – gained five A*s and seven As. She said: "I'm really pleased with my results and looking forward to starting sixth form in September."

exam so that's not really the point. Kent is still way above the national average."

Other schools singled out for praise include Dover Grammar for Girls – which achieved 100 per cent A* to C grades including English and maths – and the Hugh Christie School in Tonbridge, which has seen a huge 12 per cent increase to 42 per cent. Last year the Government placed 33 Kent schools on its National Challenge scheme, threatening them

with closure if they didn't meet the target of 30 per cent by 2011. Eleven have already reached the benchmark but will remain on the list to ensure standards are maintained.

King Ethelbert School in Birchington was one school to leap above the target, with a massive 20 per cent increase of A* to C grades including English and maths, from 14 to 34 per cent.

Cllr Hohler said: "The National Challenge schools' grades improved significantly in a short space of time, and that's encouraging. For 11 schools to have reached the target already is brilliant."

Meanwhile, 3,400 youngsters in Medway also picked up their grades this week. The overall results will not be published until they are collated nationally, but early indications are that they will exceed last year's record of 66 per cent of pupils scoring A* to C grades in all subjects.

Cllr Les Wicks, portfolio holder for children's services at Medway Council, congratulated the youngsters for their hard work.

He added: "All our teachers deserve our thanks and appreciation for their valuable contribution for the success of our students."

Students can receive free impartial and confidential advice, guidance and support about their results and their future options from Connexions Kent and Medway. Call 0800 432 0207 to find your nearest centre.

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

for three years and physiotherapist Steph Brennan suspended for two years. The player, Williams, had his ban reduced from a year to four months after the evidence he gave at the latest hearing last week.

Derek Wyatt, the Labour MP for Sittingbourne and Sheppey and chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Rugby Union Group, said: "I think it's disgraceful that players should connive to cheat in this way. It is fundamentally against the rules of all sports and as bad as taking drugs. It has no part to play in the game."

The MP, who played rugby for England in 1976 and represented the Barbarians, said there had not been such cover-ups and cheating in his day.

He said he hoped the case of Dr Chapman would be investigated separately by a medical professional body.

Asked if he thought she should be allowed to continue working in the hospital, Mr Wyatt added: "Well I think she's innocent until proven guilty in our society. That's not the way the media works, but it is the way I work."

David Corry, president of the

Doctor was concerned 'if it came out she had cut my lip'

Kent County Rugby Football Union, reflected on the impact of the affair on rugby's image as a gentleman's game.

"The full story still has not come out, we have received evidence of the player Tom Williams, but there are four other aspects still to come out," he said.

"Until they do it would be wrong to draw any final conclusions other than it is an incident together with a couple of others over the summer that has done the image of the game no good at all."

Meanwhile, the new season starts next week and Harlequins are refusing to comment until all the findings are out, including on whether Dr Chapman will be back at the Twickenham Stoop.

John Corcoran, spokesman for the ERC, said: "The committee is writing up the appeals decisions as we speak. As you can imagine they are quiet significant and complex. There are four remaining

and one of those is Dr Chapman."

He said the decisions from the appeals process, which was sparked by Williams' new evidence, would be published within 14 days.

Williams told the ERC panel during his appeal that he asked Dr Chapman to make the cut after it became apparent the fake blood injury could be discovered because the Irish club's doctor had become suspicious.

Stitches

"I believe Wendy pulled down my lip and attempted to cut it with a scalpel. I think she may have had to leave the room to get the scalpel," he told the hearing.

"Wendy was initially too gentle, and needed to try again to open a cut. There was no need for stitches as it was a clean cut. She did not want to hurt me at all and she was clearly uncomfortable at opening a cut on my lip. We both

acted in the heat of the moment."

He said Dr Chapman had been unhappy about the situation and he did not believe she was involved in the fake blood plot.

Before the original disciplinary hearing, Williams claimed that Dr Chapman was concerned by the "potential impact on her career if it came out that she had cut my lip". So the pair agreed that Williams would say he had cut his own lip, he said.

When asked at the original hearing whether the substance coming out of Williams' mouth was blood, Dr Chapman said it was bleeding and described "active oozing" of blood.

She described a "jagged-edged wound" and said there were "two active sources of bleeding".

Susan Field, a spokeswoman for the Medical Defence Union, which is representing Dr Chapman, said she would not be commenting for legal reasons.

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By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knightk@kosmedia.co.uk

EXPLODING seaweed caused a stir at one of Kent's finest eateries when the Hairy Bikers roared in to show off their culinary talents.

The television favourites were involved in a cook-off with Michelin-starred chef David Pitchford when the accident happened in the kitchen of Read's Restaurant, Faversham.

Fans of the popular duo can witness the outcome of the challenge by watching Tuesday's edition of Food Tour of Britain, during which the bikers also visit other Kent locations, including Leeds Castle and the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale.

Describing the cook-off to Kent on Sunday, Mr Pitchford said: "They wanted to create a dish that was representative of the county, so I did Romney Marsh lamb and they went for Dover sole.

"They went foraging and came back with seaweed, which they threw onto this little table-top fire we have in the kitchen.

"Because of the fat in it, the seaweed exploded everywhere and made a bit of a mess. It even burned one of the cameramen.

"It was a really fun day though and I enjoyed it. I didn't do so well when it came to the judging of the dishes, but perhaps people will take sympathy on me and come to the restaurant to see for themselves."

The Hairy Bikers – Dave Myers and Si King – rose to fame in 2004 when their show The Hairy Bikers' Cookbook proved a hit on BBC Two.

Orchards

Their latest series sees the pair travelling across 30 counties to sample as wide a range of local produce as possible, with their visit to Kent also including stops at Tiny Tim's Tearoom in Canterbury and the National Fruit Collection at Brogdale, Faversham.

Brogdale's Sally Roger said: "They looked around the orchards and were particularly interested in cobnuts because they wanted to make dishes with them. Their people got in contact because they knew we had the largest collection of temperate fruit in the world and they said they just had to come to us. The bikers were great and seemed genuinely interested in local produce and the different things they could do with it."

Show producer Dave Mynard told KoS the Hairy Bikers enjoyed their visit to Kent.

He said: "The whole series is a celebration of food in the UK and they absolutely loved what they came across in Kent, which has a great reputation as the Garden of England.

"Neither of them lives anywhere near the county so it was a voyage of discovery for

Burning rubber (and seaweed) as Hairy Bikers roar into Read's



RIDING HIGH: The Hairy Bikers – Si King, left, and Dave Myers – at the National Fruit Collection, Brogdale, with tour guide John Clark, during the filming of their latest series

them, but they were delighted with the outcome. They're popular because they're honest and love their food. People find them very approachable. When they're out on the street people will just come up and talk to them because they're not intimidating, like some celebrities can be."

The Kent episode of 'The Hairy Bikers' Food Tour of Britain will be broadcast by BBC Two on Tuesday, from 5.15pm.

ISSUES affecting Kent will be debated by MPs at the first meeting of the South East regional grand committee next month. The committee, which is one of eight in the country, has been created by Parliament to provide greater democratic scrutiny at a regional level. South East minister Jonathan Shaw, who is the MP for Chatham and Aylesford, will answer questions on the growth of the economy at the first meeting, to be held in Reading on Monday, September 14.

Prison wind turbines plan

THOUSANDS of households could benefit from renewable electricity if plans for a wind farm on the site of a prison get the go-ahead.

The Prison Service and Partnerships for Renewables are investigating the possibility of installing wind turbines at HMP Stanford Hill, on the Isle of Sheppey.

Brian Pollett, of the Sheppey prisons cluster, said: "The Prison Service, like much of the public sector, is under pressure to demonstrate leadership in the fight against climate change. At the same time we are being encouraged to make best use of under-utilised land assets.

"The development of renewable energy is one of the tools available to meet these challenges and I'm delighted Stanford Hill is at the forefront of this."

It is believed the site could host two commercial-scale wind turbines, which would be capable of generating enough energy for about 2,300 households.

Jo Fleming, regional manager at Partnerships for Renewables, said: "It's early

days and there's still a lot of environmental and technical assessment work to carry out to establish whether or not this site is appropriate for wind turbines.

"The aim of this early announcement is to ensure local involvement from the outset. We want any potential development to incorporate feedback from the local community."

A public exhibition introducing the proposal and the project team to residents in Sheppey will be held by the end of the year, she said. The proposed site is next to Stanford Hill prison, which is one of the three jails that form the Sheppey cluster. The others are Elmley and Swaleside.

Ms Fleming said a planning application for a temporary wind monitoring mast would be submitted to Swale council soon.

If the development goes ahead it will come with a community benefit package including a community fund, which would receive an annual payment.

Visit www.pfr.co.uk/standfordhill for more information.

Three men charged

A FATHER and son appeared in court after a series of early-morning raids in Chatham.

Terry Goodearl, 46, of Pimpnel Way, and Dean Goodearl, 22, of Mountbatten Avenue, have been charged with harassment without violence, and intimidation of a witness, respectively.

A third man, Mark Marchant, 27, of Pimpnel Way, appeared with them accused of endangering life by causing an airbed to explode. He will return to court with the younger Goodearl on September 14, while the father will return on September 8.

Drugs ring broken

A SUSPECTED drugs ring was broken up after a three-day bust resulted in six arrests.

Sniffer dogs and about 20 police were involved on each day of the operation in Paddock Wood, near Maidstone, which ran from Wednesday to Friday.

Neighbourhood officer Sgt Ray Masters said: "The operation was in reaction to information about criminal activity and the supply of drugs in the town.

"The majority of people in Paddock Wood are keen to keep this a nice place and don't want to be associated with criminality."

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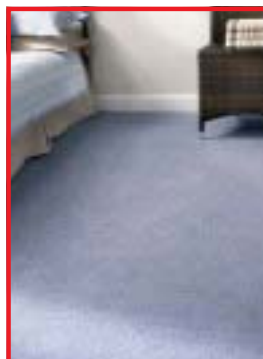
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Lockerbie bomber's release was 'pathetic'

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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THE Scottish Justice Secretary's reaction to criticism of his decision to release the Lockerbie bomber from prison has been described as "pathetic" by an influential Kent MP.

Kenny MacAskill sparked international outrage last week when he allowed Abdelbaset Al-Megrahi to return home to jubilant scenes in Libya after serving just eight-and-a-half years of a life sentence.

Despite being responsible for an explosion that killed 270 people on board a transatlantic flight in December, 1988, Mr MacAskill said it was right that the Libyan, who is terminally ill with prostate cancer, should be released on compassionate grounds, adding that he faces "a sentence imposed by a higher power".

Mr MacAskill's response to the controversy has raised the ire of Orpington Tory MP and Foreign Affairs committee member John Horam, who said the UK Government should have been consulted before a decision on the bomber's future was made.

He said: "I thought the comments by Kenny MacAskill were very pompous, especially when he started talking about Al-Megrahi's fate being in the hands of a higher power. You couldn't get more pathetic than that."

"His decision has had a massive impact in the United States, where about 180 Lockerbie victims came from. It would have been wise for him to have undertaken wider consultation first. I do think devolution is right, but Mr MacAskill should have spoken to Gordon Brown or the Justice Secretary Jack Straw or Foreign Secretary David Miliband before he took that decision."

"They could have set him straight on what the implications would be, because I think been surprised by the reaction."

Following Al-Megrahi's release, US President Barack Obama said he thought Mr



DEVASTATING: The aftermath of Pan Am flight 103 that exploded over Lockerbie in 1988

MacAskill's decision was "a mistake".

A Boycott Scotland website has also been set up, urging Americans not to visit the UK or buy British products. Democrats Abroad member Sandi Carney, who moved from Hawaii to Sevenoaks 20 years ago, said she didn't think it was an idle threat.

She said: "The American people are very angry. There are hundreds of American firms based in Scotland and they might pull the plug and move to Ireland."

"Devolution has blown up in Labour's face. There's a joke in America that because Europe is so fractured, Obama doesn't really know who to call. Now the UK is fractured as well. The people who died on that plane didn't have the choice to walk free, so I don't think the man responsible should have been able to either."

Mr Horam was more optimistic that the row would blow over in time, but stressed the importance of maintaining a good relationship with the USA. He said: "These things

tend to die down but they won't without leaving a mark, and that's bad because we want to have good relations with America."

"Ultimately, they are the most powerful defenders of freedom in the world and it's important we stand beside them."

It's pay-back time

A LANDLORD has been ordered to pay back more than £13,000 for continuing to rent a property after being told to stop.

Paramjit Singh Bansal, from Gravesend, didn't have the correct licence to run a house that was split up and occupied by different people, and was fined £2,500 last November.

Gravesend council took him to a property tribunal after discovering he was continuing to do so, where he was ordered to pay back £13,476 in housing benefit.

Smaller footprints

FIRMS in Kent are leading the way in reducing their carbon footprints, according to Business Link. The advice service says 38 per cent of firms surveyed have taken measures to cut energy, water or waste costs, while 53 per cent are doing more business via email and the internet.

To see this clip search 'bowls'
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Watch Margate Open Bowls Tournament action and see how you can get involved

Relief and delight as college rebuild wins £52m reprieve

A PART-demolished college that had its rebuilding project frozen over a lack of Government cash has won a £52 million reprieve.

North West Kent College was one of more than 100 in the UK left facing financial turmoil earlier this year when the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) admitted there wasn't enough money to go round.

Despite having already demolished some of the buildings at its Dartford campus, which it planned to replace with a £69m development, the college was forced to suspend building work. However, in June the LSC announced North West Kent would be one of just 13 priority cases in the country allowed to continue its programme, and on Friday pledged £52m to the cause.

College principal Malcolm Bell said: "We are delighted the LSC has ended the uncertainty over modernising the college and that it has invested in the future of the workforce in this part of the Thames Gateway."

The rebuilt campus will include a teaching block and a new home for the School of Sports and Public Services, as well as a renovation of the School of Performing and



BACK TO WORK: North West Kent College can proceed with its rebuilding plans

Technical Arts. LSC partnership director Malcolm Staunton said: "We're delighted to have approved the rebuilding plans at North West Kent College because the project will enable more young people to access quality training in modern buildings with excellent facilities."

"I hope this will encourage more to stay on in education and gain qualifications to improve their prospects."

Canterbury College, Thanet College and South Kent College are all still awaiting cash promised to them before the funding freeze.

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Medway man's record-breaking 19,000-mile Americas trek



GLOBETROTTER: George Meegan's adventures included a marriage in Argentina, feeling the heat in Mexico and flying the flag in Alaska

All roads lead to Rainham for long walk hero George

CHILDREN should be taught more about their local heroes, claims one of the world's greatest adventurers, *writes Steve Knight*.

But despite George Meegan's record-breaking exploits few people in Britain have ever heard his name.

Mr Meegan is the only man to have crossed the Western hemisphere on foot, but the 56-year-old can walk through his hometown of Rainham without anyone noticing him or asking for an autograph.

In contrast, the former merchant seaman has been made an honorary citizen in several American cities and even has a day named after him in Brooklyn, New York, all in recognition of a 19,000-mile walk that took seven years to complete.

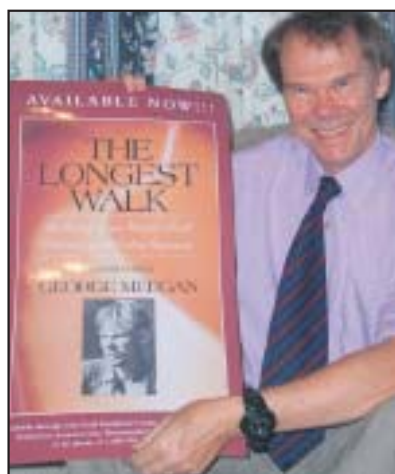
Mr Meegan admitted to Kent on Sunday he wishes more people in Medway knew about his accomplishments, if only so he could encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

He said: "I love to talk to children and help inspire them to achieve their dreams, but because I'm not well known locally I can't do that."

"It's a little embarrassing. In the USA there are special days for my journey, but the book I wrote about it – which has also been translated into Japanese – has never been published in England."

"It's unfortunate that schools no longer teach about local people, such as the great Will Adams [the first Briton to reach Japan] who also came from Medway."

"Children have no knowledge of their local



A LOCAL HERO: Adventurer George Meegan's account of his epic 19,000-mile trek has never been published in the UK

history, which is the greatest in the UK. Had I not grown up here, I might never have been inspired to do what I did. The greatest identity we have is the culture we grew up with, and it's a tremendous strength. If we don't have that then we are severed from our roots and become flotsam on the sea of life, not knowing who we are."

Mr Meegan's epic journey, which was completed between 1977 and 1983, saw him walk from the southern tip of South

America to the northernmost part of Alaska.

He is still the proud holder of several world records – including the most degrees of latitude ever crossed on foot – for a feat that has so far never been repeated.

Mr Meegan said: "I was the only English person some South American villagers had ever seen, so I was almost like an ambassador for Medway."

"During my journey I was also married in the city of Mendoza, Argentina, but the celebration was broken up by armed police."

"The country was very much out of control at the time and they saw any large groups of people as some kind of threat."

"The police used to shoot dogs as target practice and I imagined how outraged people back home would have been about that."

"My clothes eventually became rags and I ran out of money, but I was still very focused on getting home."

Today Mr Meegan is a lecturer of maritime English at Japan's Kobe University, and has homes in both Japan and Rainham – a town he says he never wants to leave.

He said: "I first opened my eyes in Rainham and found myself in the wonderful world of Medway. I began to sense the truly vast history of the Medway towns, which inspired me to undertake an adventure."

"There's nowhere in the UK where I could feel as comfortable as I do here. When you travel the world, you find a new appreciation of the flamboyance of the Medway culture."



Aussie Mike 'astonished' by Vietnam War medals

VIETNAM War veteran Mike O'Hara has received recognition of his service from the Australian government after 39 years.

Mr O'Hara, 71, now lives at Tilmanstone, near Dover, after moving to the UK from Australia. He worked as a pilot and port manager for Hoverspeed and is now a Grand Toastmaster, together with his wife Lynne.



MIKE O'HARA

And almost four decades after volunteering to fly soldiers to the war-torn south-east Asian country, his actions have been recognised with the Vietnam Service and Logistic Medal and the Australian Active Service Medal with Vietnam Cluster.

"I was astonished at first and wondered if they had the wrong person," said Mr O'Hara, who received the medals after his daughter, Blythe, realised he was eligible.

The former airman said: "I'm proud to get recognition, but there are people who gave far more in Vietnam than I ever did – their lives, for instance."

Navigator

Mr O'Hara was working for airline Qantas when volunteers were sought to crew aircraft carrying soldiers to South Vietnam, where the regime was fighting the communist North Vietnamese with the help of a huge American military presence.

Mr O'Hara worked as a navigator on a Boeing 707 during the military flights.

As well as ferrying troops out to fight, the crews also had to bring back the bodies of those killed in action.

"I used to walk through the cabin and look at those guys," said Mr O'Hara. "They were the cream of our youth and had been sent to fight in a war we should never have been involved in."

"One the way home they'd all want to rush to the front of the plane when the coast was spotted. One thing I like about Australians is they do love Australia."

The aircraft would touch down at airbases including Richmond, north of Sydney.

Mr O'Hara said: "The band would be playing and the families cheering as the troops got out. But after that the body bags would be removed and that always had an effect on me."

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Legal, for now, but hardly safe

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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THE leader of Kent's drug action team has warned of the dangers of taking 'legal highs' as an alternative to drugs such as cocaine and ecstasy.

It comes after the Government announced two drugs known as BZP and GBL – which have been linked to recent deaths – and a cannabis substitute called Spice were to be banned by the end of the year.

Lesley Andrews, head of service at the Kent Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (KDAAT) said: "It's incredibly important people understand the associated risks, which are greatly increased if these substances are combined with alcohol."

"Until any Home Office decision is made on the banning of legal highs, KDAAT advises these products can contain a varying range of potentially dangerous chemicals."

"Therefore anyone purchasing legal highs can never be sure what they may contain and what the effects might be."



BAD VIBES: The safety of so-called legal highs has been called into question

Legal highs can be bought in 'head shops', which offer a range of paraphernalia associated with smoking cannabis – such as bongs and outsize cigarette papers – and often offer a range of party drugs and herbal highs.

BZP was developed as a worming treatment for cattle but was never used because it caused fits in some animals.

GBL is an industrial cleaner used to strip paint and remove graffiti. It is taken in liquid

form and often known as liquid ecstasy.

The drugs have attracted growing concerns after BZP, which is also known as herbal ecstasy, was linked to the death of 22-year-old mortgage broker Daniel Backhouse, from Sheffield, last year.

GBL made headlines after Hester Stewart, a 21-year-old medical student from Brighton, died after taking it on a night out in April.

Her parents have been campaigning for it to be banned.

The Government plans to classify the drugs as class C substances and Spice will be controlled as a class B drug, which is the same as cannabis.

But Thule Howard, who works in the Bong Shop in Margate, questioned the decision.

She said: "I'm surprised they have decided to make Spice a class B and GBL a class C. They're making smoking something that calms you down higher than something that if you mix with alcohol can kill you."

Ms Howard said her shop did not sell any products containing GBL or BZP: "We've never sold anything like that. We sell herbal highs, which give you a similar high to MDMA [ecstasy] and some similar to cocaine and magic mushrooms."

"None of them are harmful or marked as 'not for human consumption'. They have instructions about how to take them."

"I did sell Spice. But months ago we had a letter come through saying they were thinking about banning it."

She said customers came to the shop because they did not want to be involved with drug gangs and the criminality of drugs such as cocaine and cannabis.

Another worker at a Kent head shop, who did not want to be named, questioned why amyl nitrites, known as poppers, were not being banned.

The worker said the shop had never sold GBL, BZP or poppers, adding: "I can understand why they're banning them."

"Some places are selling stuff as plant food that has no list of ingredients, which is a very cynical thing to do."

"These things have been known about for years and they have been available. I feel strongly about amyl nitrites. They are a disgusting product, but you can buy those perfectly legally."

News and sport updated daily online
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TWO major road schemes are set to go ahead after securing £112.5 million from the Government.

Transport minister Paul Clark announced £81.25m would go towards improving road connections between Thanet, Manston Airport, the M2, Canterbury and the European gateways of Ramsgate, Dover and the Channel Tunnel terminal at Folkestone.

A further £23.4m will help fund the Sittingbourne northern relief road between the

County's £112m roads boost

A249 and the eastern outskirts of the town.

Mr Clark, the MP for Gillingham, said: "The Government is committed to investing in key transport links. These crucial improvements will support jobs, boost the economy and attract investment to the region."

"The schemes will open large parts of the

county to national and international investment, supporting economic regeneration."

"Both will reduce congestion, improve journey times, enhance safety and allow for improved public transport."

The Homes and Communities Agency is providing almost £8m towards the £35m

Sittingbourne scheme, with construction due to start in September and be finished by late 2011. The relief road will ease congestion, improve safety for road users and attract investment to the town and Thames Gateway, the DfT said.

The £87m east Kent access improvements will see almost five miles of the A256 and A299 upgraded to dual carriageway.

Work is due to start in October and be completed by the end of 2012.



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Can't put a price on love

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

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A BRIDE opened herself up to criticism from her own guests when she allowed her budget-conscious big day to be filmed for television.

Natalie Canavan (née Abulu), 38, from Bromley, and her new husband James, 40, spent just £580 on their wedding, which was featured this week on the new Living TV show *Four Weddings*.

The cable TV series – which has been compared to popular cookery programme *Come Dine With Me* – sees four brides attend each other's weddings before marking them out of 10, with a dream honeymoon awarded to the couple with the highest combined score.

James and Natalie came last in the voting, scoring just 51 out of a potential 150 points in categories for food, venue, dress and overall presentation.

Their ceremony was held at Bromley Civic Centre and the reception hosted by the Chatterton Arms pub.

Natalie said: "Going to three different weddings was a bit of an eye-opener. One of them was a civil ceremony for two gay men and I'd never experienced anything like that before, so it was quite interesting."

"It's difficult to be asked to judge someone on their big day because you don't know them and you don't know their tastes."

"That's probably why I was marked so low – they didn't know what my tastes were."

"They couldn't believe it was going to be so



ALL SMILES: Natalie and James with guests on their big day, filmed by Living TV

cheap and they were tearing me apart before I'd even walked down the aisle, which surprised me a little. But I'm pretty tough, so it didn't really bother me.

"I'm not one to hold a grudge and I still keep in touch with [fellow contestants] Stephen and Victoria through Facebook."

Mercedes

"I've told them there are no hard feelings and what was said was said, although one thing that did upset me was that they could have said sorry, but didn't."

Liverpudlian Natalie, who is a front-of-house manager for a private members' military club, said she and James plumped for a budget wedding because they didn't want to be in debt during the downturn.

A student photographer took pictures for free, a Chatterton Arms regular drove Natalie to the ceremony in his Mercedes and even her dress was bought on eBay for £30.

She said: "A car hire firm passed our details to the production company. When they asked if I was interested I just went for it. There wasn't a lot of discussion about it with James. He said it was up to me, seeing as I was going to be one of the main people on it."

"Only family and friends were invited to the wedding but I didn't tell any of them it was going to be filmed, so they were all very surprised. I didn't really know what I was letting myself in for, but I'm glad I did it."

News and sport updated daily online
www.kentnews.co.uk

The dangers of unattended pans

FIREFIGHTERS have issued warnings about the dangers of leaving cooking unattended after two incidents.

Two Kent Fire and Rescue Service crews tackled a blaze in Barrow Grove, Sittingbourne, on Thursday at about 7pm, after a chip pan caught light.

The resident had a smoke alarm and was alerted to the blaze. No-one was hurt.

The second incident was in Railway Street, Gillingham, at 2am on Friday when a deaf householder fell asleep, leaving food cooking in a frying pan.

A smoke alarm sounded and was heard by a neighbour who alerted the man.

Two appliances attended, from Medway and Gillingham fire stations. Crews said the pan hadn't caught light but the property was full of smoke.

Fraudster warning after hospice scam

A CONMAN claiming to be collecting money for the EllenorLions Hospice in Northfleet tried to trick his way into the home of an elderly person in Dartford.

The fraudster, a tall black man driving a silver car, said he would tell the homeowner more information if he could come in.

The pensioner refused and he eventually went away.

Officers from Kent County Council's trading standards department believe the conman may have shown an out-of-date identification from the hospice.

They advise always being cautious if an unexpected caller comes to your door.

You can report suspicious callers to the police or to trading standards on 08454 040506.

College founder defending homeopathy from HIV fears

HOMEOPATHIC remedies can work side-by-side conventional medicines in treating some of the world's deadliest diseases, claims an expert in the field.

Uli Holzer, co-founder of the new Southern College of Homeopathy in Tonbridge, says she disagrees with World Health Organisation (WHO) advice that the treatment cannot help sufferers of HIV, malaria, TB or flu.

The WHO was responding to a letter from the Voice of Young Science Network, a group of African and UK medics, which says homeopathy is putting lives at risk, particularly in the developing world.

One of its members told the BBC: "We need governments to recognise the dangers of promoting homeopathy for life-threatening illnesses. We hope that by raising awareness of the WHO's position we will be supporting those who are taking a stand against these potentially disastrous practices."

Before becoming a homeopath, trained nurse Mrs Holzer worked for 15 years in a German hospital.

She told Kent on Sunday her experiences enabled her to see the benefits of both conventional medicines and holistic remedies, saying different people responded better to the latter than others.

"If I caught a serious illness I would start with homeopathy, but if I didn't get anywhere I would probably seek medical attention as well," she said.

"It's important people are aware of their limits though and understand there is no guarantee a homeopathic remedy will work for them. They also need to understand there is a difference between treating people and curing them."

Diluted

"Obviously you would need medical attention if you suffered a broken bone or had a heart attack, but conventional medicine has its limits too, when it comes to conditions such as arthritis."

"I would never advise a patient to avoid taking medicines, but it's important people have a choice."

Homeopathy is based on using highly-diluted substances which practitioners claim triggers the body's natural system of healing. The remedies are often so diluted they contain few or no active ingredients, but homeopaths argue the water has a 'memory' of the active ingredient.

The treatment is controversial, with scientific studies dismissing homeopathy's claims. Mrs Holzer helped set up the Southern College of Homeopathy, which has an open day on September 5.

She said: "It's getting more popular because it's natural and there is no toxicity in the remedies we provide. I think homeopathy will continue to grow."

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The event will raise vital funds for the Martha Trust, a charity providing lifelong residential and respite care for people with profound and multiple disabilities in Kent and also The Stars Foundation for Cerebral Palsy a charity who raise funds to buy mobility, communication and educational aids.



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Changing our communities for the better

TODAY marks the beginning of a series of articles taking a behind-the-scenes look at Kent Police.

For every crime there is a victim, and for every incident attended by one of our 3,640 police officers, there are repercussions that need to be addressed.

Our police officers are responsible for protecting 1.65 million people in Kent and Medway. We intend to look behind the headlines and discover the challenges they face.

We will meet people whose lives have changed due to the drug menace and look at how Kent Police have helped rebuild their lives – and chase the menace from our streets.

We will find out how some of the £257 million of taxpayers' money a year is spent, which will help you have a greater understanding of what goes on and why Kent is one of the safest places in the UK.

We will find out some of the measures that are in place which prevent crime, and discover some of the technology which is used to make all of our lives safer.

And we will give you the chance to put your questions to our Chief Constable Michael Fuller, who has laid out clear targets for improvement over the next three years.

He said: "There have been significant improvements in our performance over the last two years, which have ensured Kent and Medway remain among the safest places in the country."

Chief Constable Fuller wants our police force to be seen as the best in Britain.

"Our ambition is not only to improve the service we deliver to residents, but to provide an unrivalled service compared to other forces."

Targets include reducing crime and anti-social

behaviour and ensuring a high detection rate.

A key target is to increase the visibility of police officers, to see that public confidence continues to improve and to ensure victims of crime are properly dealt with.

Read our articles in the coming weeks and make your own mind up. If there are questions you would like us to pose to the police, write to us at A Safer Kent, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, TN25 6SR, or email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk.



Chief Constable Michael Fuller



The team works to improve lives

THE full force of a drive across Kent to crack down on crime and anti-social behaviour is about to be felt.

From Monday, 14 Neighbourhood Task Teams will be on the county's streets, tackling the problems residents have identified as priorities.

Kent Police first piloted the Neighbourhood Task Teams at the end of 2007 and in September, 2008, the trial was extended to provide six teams across the county, one in each policing area.

They proved so successful the number is about to increase to 14, with one team for each district and two for Medway.

Each team has a sergeant and five constables and they will provide a rapid response to community concerns.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge said: "Neighbourhood Task Teams have proved a great success since they were introduced, reducing crime wherever they work. The new ones mean each police district will have its own dedicated response team that is able to act fast when people highlight problems."

"It's part of our commitment to improve the quality of life for everyone in Kent and make our county an even better place to live."

They will go where their help is most needed, moving into an area to support local officers, tackle offenders and find long-term solutions to concerns raised by residents. They will concentrate on some of the significant issues such as criminal damage and anti-social behaviour.

Ann Barnes, chair of the Kent Police Authority, said: "The shift to one team per policing district is good news for residents... It is clear from our research that the teams are reducing crime and anti-social behaviour, with knock-on improvements to the quality of life for residents."

The force says the investment is worth every penny because of the amazing results the teams bring.

The recent use of a Neighbourhood Task Team resulted in a 26 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour calls and a 40 per cent reduction in recorded criminal damage. The team's visit also resulted in more than 30 arrests.

A survey following their use showed 91 per cent of those questioned felt more confident in the police, compared to 73 per cent before the team arrived.

Insp Bill Willis, who is in charge of the



SAFETY: Each area of Kent will have a Neighbourhood Task Team

teams, said: "What makes us unique is that we are the only force to have these teams at a district level and with this scale of staffing."

"A team can go into an area where there is anti-social behaviour and over a period of time solve the problem and deal with offenders. It's about finding long-term solutions."

The police work with local authorities and other partners to decide where the task teams should be sent, acting in response to problems identified by local people, and they can be moved in very quickly.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge added: "It's a simple philosophy – You said, We did."

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Don't be fooled by Ashes win, says Test Match Special legend

VOICE of cricket Henry Blofeld says the English game is in a "terrible state" despite the national team's second Ashes victory in three series, *writes Steve Knight*.

The legendary BBC commentator – affectionately known as Blowers – feels not enough homegrown talent is coming through at county level and that the Australians will have the edge until it does.

Speaking to Kent on Sunday ahead of his upcoming one-man show at Gravesend's Woodville Halls, the Test Match Special veteran said the Ashes triumph could not disguise England's weaknesses.

He said: "English cricket is in a terrible state. Although England won the Ashes, there is a terrible shortage of good players coming through."

"You only have to look at how well Jonathan Trott – a South African – performed in the final Test compared with someone like Paul Collingwood. The difference was astonishing."

"I think the whole set-up of English cricket is very wonky. If you succeed at one level in Australia you progress to the next, but that's not going to happen over here while county cricket clubs retain the bogus mystique of being unapproachable."

"There's such a barrier between normal human beings and county teams that talented youngsters are not even getting a look in, and that's not right."

"Australia has some of the best facilities in the world, but we've had successive govern-



COMMENTATOR HENRY BLOFELD: 'The whole set-up of English cricket is wonky'

ments closing down sports grounds and they've done cricket a great injustice."

Born in Norfolk in 1939, former Eton school-boy Blofeld seemed destined for a successful cricketer career until it was cut short by injury when he was knocked off his bike by a bus.

He instead went on to become one of the most recognisable voices in the game, and his commentary is well known for being side-tracked by the weather, the traffic outside the

ground and cakes from fans of the show.

Blofeld told KoS he still enjoyed watching his country regain the Ashes.

He said: "It's always nice when England beat Australia because they're the old enemy and the games between the two sides always catch the public's attention."

"The story of the Ashes is a very romantic one and has links with Kent, as the urn was originally kept at that lovely manor house in Cobham. I don't know quite what it is, but we love to win them – and so do they."

"We give them a tough time during the series and they give us a tough time, and it's all great fun. That final Test at The Oval would have been watched by billions around the world."

Blofeld's first day as a cricket writer for The Times was at Gravesend's Bat and Ball Ground in May, 1962.

His return to the town on September 10, will see him tell stories about some of the characters he has met since then, his early life in Norfolk, and how his surname found its way onto the big screen in James Bond films.

When asked what he put his success down to, Blofeld replied: "Without sounding arrogant, I suppose I have a good way of describing things and people don't mind listening because it's all good fun. I'm fairly mad, but I've always been a people-person and never been accused of talking down to anyone."

"For me it's always been a lot of fun and it still is. I'll never retire."

• Henry Blofeld will be at Woodville Halls, Gravesend, from 7.30pm on Thursday, September 10. Tickets cost £16, £15 concessions. Call the box office on 01474 337774.

Railway raiders

TEENAGE burglars who broke into a railway police office and made off with items are being sought. The trio – two boys and a girl – were captured on CCTV forcing entry at Harrietsham station, in the early hours of June 16.

Officers have released these images of two boys they want to trace.

The female is white, with shoulder-length hair that was black at the back and blond at the front.

She was wearing black trousers, a black coat and a white T-shirt with a large logo.

PC Andrew Devereese, of British Transport Police, said: "Most of the items were recovered but some are still missing, including a badge presented by the South Australian Police."

Call Crimestoppers on 0800 555111.



Caravans breach

A MAN has been fined £250 for breaching an enforcement notice by siting two caravans on agricultural land without planning permission.

William Hilden, 47, of Orchard Place, Ashford Road, Badlesmere, was also ordered to pay £100 costs to Swale council and a £15 victim surcharge.

The caravans, on land opposite Orchard Cottage, were occupied by a family claiming to be gypsies.

No planning permission had been applied for.

After Hilden failed to comply with an enforcement notice to remove of the caravans, the council took legal action.

He denied the charges at Sittingbourne magistrates' court.

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Loan-shark hunters need victims' help

Teams chase illegal money lenders who breed crime

RECESSION victims who have fallen prey to loan sharks have been urged to come forward as part of a crackdown on illegal money lending.

Kent County Council's trading standards service, the South East Illegal Money Lending Team and Kent Police joined forces to launch a county-wide campaign against loan sharks in April.

Four months on there have been no arrests and the partnership is keen to break people's silence on the crime, which can have a serious impact on communities.

Cllr Mike Hill, KCC's cabinet member for communities, said: "We are desperate for information, but it is extremely difficult because people are not keen to speak up.

"If you are aware of this type of activity tell someone about it, then we can take action. You can talk to the police or us at anytime."

Nationally the Stop Loan Sharks project has helped 10,000 victims, written off more than £30 million of illegal debt and secured more than 50 years in prison sentences since it began as a Birmingham-based pilot.

At the beginning of the month, John Kiely from Manchester was sentenced to five years in prison for charging poor families interest

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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rates as high as 2,237 per cent on loans.

One of his victims, a woman who borrowed £700, is on anti-depressants and was forced to leave her home because of the intimidation and violence inflicted on her family.

"I felt that I did not have any other option but to go to him. It was a quick-fix," she said. "Obviously I regret it now. It was the worst thing I have done in my life... I just thought that it would all be okay."

In March, Cheshire loan shark Paul Nicholson, who raped, blackmailed and threatened his victims, was jailed indefinitely.

Violence

A spokeswoman for the Stop Loan Sharks project said: "A woman raped by Nicholson because she was struggling to repay her debts bravely gave evidence against him.

"Not only was she supported throughout the four-week trial, she was re-housed and joined a credit union before the trial started and has now gone through self-esteem training and started a new job."

She said loan sharks start out being friendly and offering people help with financial problems. But they can impose harsh penal-

ties for late payments and often randomly add fees to the amount owed. When people cannot pay they use intimidation, violence and other tactics to get their money.

There are examples of people committing suicide because of this and the highest interest rate discovered was 117,000 per cent.

KCC's Cllr Hill said: "It is a criminal network, one of the implications is that it leads to increased criminality in an area – one of the things police have been frustrated by.

"The effects include people being driven to desperation, rather like drug addiction. To feed their requirement to pay back the loan they turn to burglary and stealing."

In response to people struggling to get loans from legal sources due to the economic downturn, KCC is set to launch its own credit union in October.

Cllr Hill revealed it would be called Kent Savers. He said: "It is one thing to crack down on illegal activity but we have to give people another option. They need to have somewhere to turn to, which is why we will be providing an alternative and lending to people who are unable to get credit anywhere else."

• To report a loan shark call Kent Police or KCC. Alternatively, call Stop Loan Shark's confidential 24/7 hotline on 0300 555 2222 or visit www.direct.gov.uk/stoploansharks.



Rare bat moves into fishery site

ONE of Britain's rarest bats has been discovered at a water company's site.

A breeding male nathusius pipistrelle was discovered during bat monitoring surveys carried out by South East Water ecologists at the company's Mid Kent Fisheries at Chilham, near Canterbury.

Its more prevalent family members, the common and soprano pipistrelles, are widespread across the UK and frequent visitors to the rural fishing beauty spot.

But little is known about the nathusius pipistrelle, a small species found in western Europe and Asia.

To date there have only been about 410 cases of it being recorded in the UK.

South East Water environmental manager Emma Goddard said: "Little is known about the size of the population here and there are very few recordings, so to find one at this site is very exciting."

The nathusius pipistrelle was discovered using ground-breaking sound equipment which relays ultrasonic social calls to bats.

Bat species are drawn towards specific ultrasonic waves and into something called a harp trap – this comprises two parallel, slightly offset rows of soft lines strung vertically, like a harp.

Bats fly into the strings and drop uninjured into a canvas holding area below, from where they can be safely retrieved, checked and recorded, before being set free.

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Lifesavers receive award from RNLI

A COUPLE from Broadstairs have been presented with a framed letter of thanks from RNLI chairman, Admiral the Lord Boyce, for their role in a dramatic rescue.

Ian and Jane Watkins were key in saving sea angler David Nicklin who got into difficulties off Trebarwith beach in Cornwall last June.

Mr Watkins called for the ambulance and, together with his wife and a surfer, helped the RNLI lifeguards move Mr Nicklin further up the beach.

Mrs Watkins, a trained nurse, helped administer cardio pulmonary resuscitation (CPR) on Mr Nicklin until they saw signs of life.

P&O's giant ferries begin their journey

THE first of two huge new ships being built for P&O Ferries has passed a major construction milestone with its keel laying in Rauma, Finland.

In keeping with tradition coins were placed under the keel for good fortune.

At 49,000 tonnes, and 212m-long, the new £360 million ships are the largest ferries designed for the Dover-Calais route. The first will come into service at the end of next year followed by the second in September, 2011.

P&O chief executive Helen Deeble said: "We look forward to introducing customers to these exciting additions to our fleet in due course."

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THE MOTORISTS' NO.1 CHOICE FOR CROSSING THE CHANNEL

By JENNA PUDELEK

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

DOCTORS and pharmacists across Kent and Medway are preparing to deal with an expected surge in swine flu cases this autumn.

In the west of the county, NHS West Kent held a training session in Pembury to ensure its medical professionals were up-to-date with the latest developments.

Flu tsar Sharon Jones, Dr James Thallon, the primary care trust's medical director and Dr Mike Parks from the Kent Local Medical Committee, which represents GPs in the area, were among those leading the session.

Michael Keen, chief executive of the Kent Local Pharmaceutical Committee, said: "The session has brought together all the main groups who are responsible for tackling swine flu. It's helped to build a common understanding of what we have to tackle and how we can tackle it. It's really important to have a common message and get everyone working together."

Pharmacists in west Kent have been at the frontline of the PCT's plans to handle the flu pandemic and have been handing out packs of Tamiflu.

Sharon Jones, NHS West Kent's director of resilience planning, said: "GPs and pharmacists have been doing critical work during this pandemic to make sure that patients are cared for."

"We want to continue to support their efforts by providing information, support and training like this session to help this vital group of professionals help the public. They deserve all our thanks for their efforts."

The latest figures show there have now been four deaths from the H1N1 virus across the NHS South East Coast region, which covers Kent, Surrey and Sussex.

NHS preparing staff for surge in numbers of swine flu cases

There have been no deaths in the county. Nationally there have now been 54 confirmed deaths related to swine flu. In the south east coast region 441 people have been admitted to hospital because of the virus.

GPs and pharmacists in east Kent are also preparing for the second wave of swine flu.

Pandemic

NHS Eastern and Coastal Kent's head of emergency planning Paul Mullane was working to update the region's pandemic flu plan.

"Over the past few weeks we have been working hard on the resilience of our plans to make sure that we are fully prepared for when the second swine flu wave hits," he said.

"We are working with the Department of Health and the British Medical Association to reach a comprehensive swine flu vaccine implementation programme."

"This is expected to begin in the autumn,

subject to the vaccine being licensed by the European Medicines Agency."

The PCT said that preparations were being made nationally by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to extend the programme to the healthy population.

Decisions would be based on the evolution of the pandemic and clinical data about the use of the vaccine.

NHS Medway said it was also running training days for its GPs and pharmacists.

Advice for people who think they have swine flu remains the same. Check your symptoms on the National Pandemic Flu Service website www.direct.gov.uk/pandemicflu or call 0800 1 513 100 or 0800 1 513 200.

People with swine flu-like symptoms who have a serious underlying illness, are pregnant, have a sick child under one, or realise their condition is suddenly getting much worse, should call their GP.

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Picture: WARLIFE COX



BURNT DOWN: Promis Recovery Centre

Arsonist attack on 'Ab Fab of Rehab'

A TREATMENT centre once dubbed the 'Ab Fab of Rehab' because of its celebrity clients has been destroyed by two fires.

Police suspect at least one of the fires was started deliberately and are investigating the fires at the Promis Recovery Centre in Nonington, between Dover and Deal.

The centre achieved fame in the 1980s and early 90s by treating high-profile personalities such as Elton John's manager John Reid and celebrity cook Clarisa Dickson Wright.

Other TV stars were also treated for alcohol and drug addiction at the centre, which prided itself on secrecy and discretion under the guidance of director Dr Robin Lefever.

The building is currently believed to be owned by the Royal Bank of Scotland after the business went into liquidation last year.

The first fire broke out last Saturday and was tackled by firefighters who remained at the scene until the following day, but then a second blaze started on Monday. This destroyed much of the framework of the building, which is in isolated countryside in three acres of grounds surrounded by trees.

A police spokesman said: "We are treating at least the first fire as arson."

The centre remained in operation for 25 years and had the capacity to care for 43 patients at any one time.

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Breaking down the barrier in our mind

A MAJOR drive to ensure people from black and ethnic minority communities can access mental health services is now under way.

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

The Sahayak project, which is based in Gravesend and run by mental health charity Rethink, has been hailed as an example of

best practice in engaging with members of the Asian community.

Antonio Alemo, a community mental health worker at the centre, explained the difficulties reaching people from Asian and Afro-Caribbean communities because of the way mental illness is perceived.

In some communities mental illnesses such as schizophrenia are associated with black magic, someone who has done something wrong, or is connected to behaviour in a past life.

Respect

The first step is to help the patient get NHS mental health care but without disrespecting their traditions or beliefs.

"We do not say what they are saying is untrue, what we say is that it is an illness and that it is common," he said. "We tell them that medication is one way of treating it and that they can also use our helpline and self-help groups to express themselves."

"They come and see they are not the only ones, which helps to break down the stigma that you can talk about something that is not spoken about openly."

At the moment there are 10 black and minority ethnic (BME) community development workers looking at mental health services across Kent and Medway, with another three to join soon.

Befriending

They work with Asian, Afro-Caribbean and Eastern European communities to find ways for people to access mental health services.

Paul Absolon, social care commissioner for mental health for west Kent, said: "The Sahayak service is helping us understand how we can improve access for all black and ethnic minority communities in west Kent."

"In Gravesend 13 per cent of people have origins in the Punjab

region of India and their first language is Punjabi, so this was the logical place for it to be based."

Sahayak, which means 'helpful' in Hindi, offers support for carers of people with mental health problems, and enables access to self-help groups and a helpline.

Carol Gosal, Rethink's area services manager for west Kent, said the project also offers one-to-one support through a befriending programme, which sees volunteers linked to patients.

Community mental health worker Mr Alemo gave examples of some of the people he helps.

One man was referred to the project by social services – which is the main route into Sahayak for the 40 or so clients it helps at any one time – after he had been admitted to a mental health ward twice after breakdowns brought on by his manic depression.

Speak out

"It is especially difficult for men to accept they have mental health problems... Even if he has a problem, to speak about it openly is a big problem," he said.

The man has been with the project for three years and is able to live independently with his wife. He now uses the helpline to talk about the lows brought of his conditions.

Another example is of a young woman with schizophrenia.

"As soon as she came to us the mother said 'it is black magic to my daughter'," Mr Alemo said.

"With their permission, I attended the psychiatrist appointments with them and the consultant drew up a care plan."

"The mother wanted her to get married I had to convince her that it is fine but the person must know she has this illness."

Sahayak is helping the mother through its carers' programme, which offers short breaks, information courses and English lessons.



Encouraging a different view

CHANGING attitudes to domestic violence and dealing with the mental health affects of the abuse make up a large part of the work Sahayak does.

Rethink, the charity that runs the Gravesend-based project, received funding from Kent Police to provide counselling for black and minority ethnic (BME) victims of domestic violence.

Antonio Alemo, a community mental health worker at the centre, said: "Domestic violence is an occurrence in all cultures but when it comes to BME communities, especially Asian, it is as if the man has a right to do what he is doing. Women who speak out about it can be segregated."

Stigma

He told a story about a woman who came from India to marry a British-born man from an Indian family. She came to the project after police were called out to the house following bouts of mental torture and physical violence. She was found a place in a refuge and now lives apart from her husband with the children.

But her problems are far from over, Mr Alemo said: "The problem she now faces is a sense of stigma because she is not part of the mainstream culture."

"We were accused of supporting the break-up of the whole family."

He said the woman gave up her identity, which is something many do not think is worth trading: "Some think it is better to put up with rather than be segregated."

He said that the stress of domestic violence has left victims with problems such as schizophrenia and depression.

Mr Alemo said that the project questions and puts forward alternative views that domestic violence is not acceptable.

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Unique war interviews rescued from the skip

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

A CASSETTE recorded 20 years ago containing valuable memories of wartime Kent has been literally saved from the scrapheap.

The hour-long documentary was the creation of former freelance journalist Graham Majin, whose hard work resulted in a one-off Invicta FM airing on Christmas Day in 1989.

Rescued from a box of junk bound for the skip, the tape has now been replicated on CD and is being sold off for charity.

Mr Majin said: "I was working as the early-morning newsreader at Invicta when I had the idea of interviewing people about their war memories and making a documentary."

"The station wouldn't pay me to do it. They said it wasn't their cup of tea, so I decided to make the programme anyway in my own time."

"After I'd finished they liked it and paid to broadcast it on Christmas Day. Apart from that, no-one has ever heard these recordings."

The documentary features interviews with 24 men and women and contains vivid descriptions of air raids on several Kent towns.

Mr Majin, who is head of video marketing and production at Maidstone-based Kersh



Picture: HARRY MAIN

MEMORY: Graham Majin is now selling copies of the 20-year-old recordings for charity

Media, is selling the £8 CDs to raise money for the Royal British Legion and the Chart Sutton War Memorial Fund.

He said: "When I realised the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of war was approaching, I wondered if I still had my original tape. I turned the house upside down and finally found a dusty cassette in a box of junk in the attic."

"It was amazing to find it, especially as we'd just hired a skip for a big clear-out and the box was destined to go on it."

Mr Majin said his favourite interview on the CD – which also contains rare archive

sound recordings and wartime music – was with former fireman Ted Bishop, who woke one morning to learn that Canterbury had been bombed by the Nazis.

"Ted describes driving a fire engine along the A2 from Faversham and, as he came over the hill, seeing the city ablaze," said Graham.

"Later, when he saw the number of bombs that had fallen all around the cathedral, he couldn't believe the ancient building hadn't been hit. Ted's voice choked up as he talked about it. I'm glad I recorded that memory – no-one else has."

Stolen computer is found in India

STAFF at a Kent school were amazed when a stolen laptop computer was recovered by police – in Tohana, India.

They had used a new programme which allowed a company called Absolute Software to trace where in the world it was being used online, and then send in police to recover it.

It had vanished from Laleham Gap School, a primary in Cliftonville.

The head of IT Jon Bullard worked with the firm and the police to get the expensive computer back.

He said: "When the laptop was traced to India we were amazed that the Absolute Theft Recovery Team was able to locate and retrieve it from over 4,000 miles away."

Embedded

"We now have the reassurance that should any of our laptops fall into the wrong hands, we are able to protect the sensitive information they contain and also get back the equipment we need to allow our teachers to do their jobs."

"I now plan to advertise that our laptops have this level of security embedded in them in a bid to prevent any further robberies."

The software allows IT managers to remotely delete data when laptops go astray while the Theft Recovery Team works with law enforcement agencies to recover stolen laptops and return them to their owners.

Derek Skinner, the team manager said: "Some thieves cross continents to cover their tracks, while others are more confident – sometimes only venturing as far away as the apartment upstairs."

Another laptop taken from the Kent school turned up 30 miles away and two people were arrested.

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■ BUDDING Picassos or those vying to be the next Van Gogh are being invited to attend an art networking event next month.

Organised by Sevenoaks District Council, as part of the West Kent Arts Partnership, it's aimed at local amateur and professional artists and takes place in Sevenoaks Library on September 24 from 6.30pm to 8.30pm.

Tickets for this event cost £5 and are available by calling 01732 770929.



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WIN tickets to see Coldplay

COLDPLAY's Wembley Stadium gigs in September are already sold out, but KOS Media has a pair of tickets to ensure you don't miss out.

As part of their 2009 summer tour the band are due at the stadium on Friday and Saturday, September 18-19 in what will be the band's biggest ever UK headline shows.

It has been announced Coldplay will now be supported by Girls Aloud and Jay Z on both dates at Wembley Stadium.

The acts had previously only been booked to each play one of the two dates at the London venue, but will now share the support bill.

Coldplay's website also said London rockers White Lies would be providing additional support at both shows.

The band's UK leg of their tour begins on Saturday, September 12, in Manchester. The tour, which began in Florida in May, finishes at Wembley Stadium with these two sold out gigs.

Coldplay announced earlier last month they would give away CDs of their new live album *LeftRight-*



LeftRightLeft at every remaining live show in 2009, as well as making it available as a free download from their website.

To be in with a chance of winning a pair of tickets to the Saturday show, answer this question:

Which month is Coldplay playing at Wembley Stadium?

a) September b) October c) December

To enter, simply text your answer either 'win A' 'win B' or 'win C' to 80012.

Entrants must put 'Win' before either the winning answer A B or C.

The text line closes on the September 14, 2009, and the winner will be notified by September 15, 2009. Messages cost 50p. No purchase necessary.

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Gun crime won't be tolerated, say police

A MAN has been sentenced to 12 years in jail for two firearm offences in Erith.

Akili McLean, 25, was sentenced to 10 years for possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life and two years for possession of ammunition. The sentences will run consecutively.

The court heard that on January 8, officers were on plain clothes patrol in Erith at 5.10pm when they spotted two men walking in Sandcliff Road.

McLean ducked down behind a parked car and placed an object underneath.

The two men were stopped by officers and a revolver containing four bullets was found hidden under the car.

Both of the men were arrested for possession of a firearm.

McLean, of Benin Street, Lewisham, pleaded not guilty and stood trial at Woolwich Crown Court last month. More than 100 exhibits were shown. No charges were made against the second man.



LOCKED UP: Akili McLean

It took the jury just 25 minutes to reach a unanimous verdict of guilty against McLean.

Det Sgt Nigel Penney, Bexley Police's Crime Squad, said: "This sentence emphasises the serious threat that people who carry firearms pose to the community and should serve as a warning to others that the police and the courts will not tolerate gun crime. Fortunately gun crime is very rare in Bexley and we are committed to making the borough a safer place to live, work and visit."

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A FORMER soldier who suffered from combat stress after returning from the first Gulf War has used his experiences to inspire his work as an artist.

Glenn Fitzgerald's first solo exhibition, *Symbols of Society (SoS 999)*, is set to open at the Community Pharmacy Gallery in Margate on Wednesday, September 9.

"After being in the Army I found it really difficult to reintegrate into society," he said. "I know I'm not alone in that. Things are so difficult for a lot of former soldiers. You either end up trying a lot of jobs or you go back into education."

He joined the Army in 1991, aged 19, and was immediately sent out to the Gulf in the midst of Desert Storm. As a trooper, his job was to work with the medics. He said: "In a way it was surreal – and horrific. The unit I was with saw pretty much the aftermath of what tanks could do in terms of blowing people apart."

"It wasn't the dead that were most upsetting, but the ones who were still alive and crying."

"It's a heartbreaking experience, something like that. I was 19, still a teenager, and not ready for anything like that."

The Canterbury artist's three-year stint in the Army has given his work a strong anti-war stance. The exhibition shows a series of sculptural installations and eight intricate drawings.

"The work I do is very detailed and in a surreal setting, so I can put in a lot of information," he said.

He said his work addresses past and current affairs. Mundane petrol pumps become sinister weapons, and within the intricacy of his drawings the viewer discovers a baby with a knife at its throat.

Mr Fitzgerald said the war was not what it looked like on TV, and he understood why images were censored.

"About 20 minutes into the battle we would get the first casualty," he said.

"I remember one man, an Iraqi, who had been shot by machine-gun fire that had nearly cut him in half. But he was



BLOOD AND OIL: Mundane items are given a sinister twist by Fitzgerald's art

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

still alive.

"They can't tell you where the wounds are because they are in shock, but you have to find the holes before it's too late."

After trying a variety of jobs, Mr Fitzgerald decided to study fine art in Canterbury at what is now the University College for the Creative Arts.

In 2001 he received a scholarship to study for a masters degree.

But in between, suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, he was sent to Tyrwhitt House in Surrey, which is a 30-bed treatment centre for veterans run by the charity Combat Stress.

He said he now felt lucky to have been sent there: "I'm one of their successes. I was able to pick myself up my and restart my life. But there are ex-soldiers who are totally unaware that something like that exists."

"In GPs' surgeries, with all the leaflets on the walls, there is never anything for combat stress."

"If these people could just turn around and see something on the wall, it might just save a lot of heartbreak."

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PUMP ACTION: Glenn Fitzgerald's art has been shaped by his experience of combat during Desert Storm



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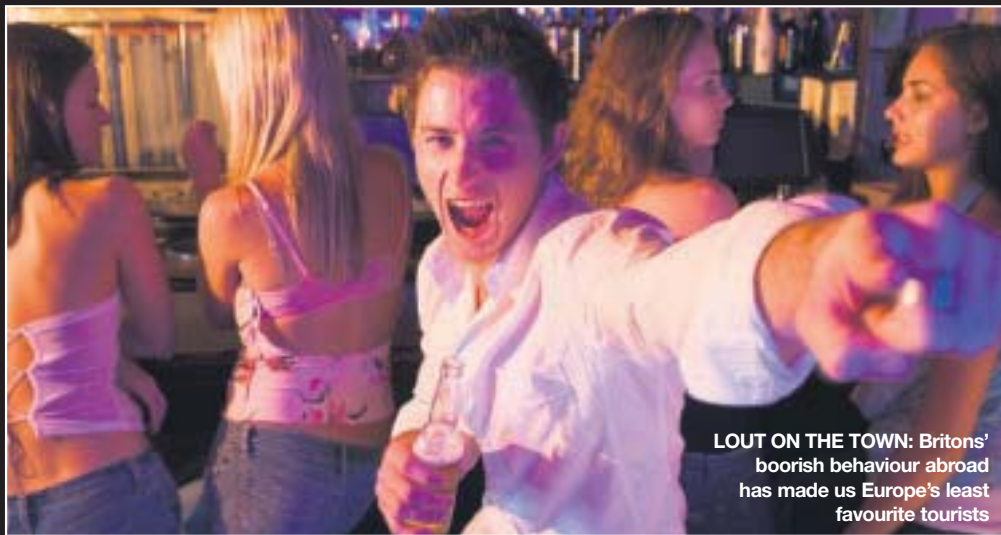
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Oh no! The British are coming on holiday...



LOUT ON THE TOWN: Britons' boorish behaviour abroad has made us Europe's least favourite tourists

NR 59 KOS



Catch up on this years new releases

Starts on page 53

KENT ON SATURDAY KENT ON SUNDAY

MORE than eight out of 10 people from Kent who took part in a Government survey said they were embarrassed about the behaviour of other Brits abroad.

This summer has seen reports of British stag party revellers urinating against a national monument in Latvia's capital Riga, and a Cumbrian teenager expelled from Turkey for exposing himself and swearing at a statue of the nation's founder.

Figures from the Foreign Office this week have revealed that Britons are continuing to get in trouble abroad, with alcohol contributing to many of the 6,919 arrests and 3,146 hospitalisations worldwide between April, 2008, and March this year.

The 85 per cent of people from Kent who said they were embarrassed about other Britons' behaviour abroad put it down to drunken antics, lack of respect for local culture, bad manners and rudeness.

However, it seems not all Kentish holidaymakers were merely observing fellow tourists' embarrassing escapades.

The annual British Behaviour Abroad report found that 42 per cent of holidaymak-

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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ers from Kent admitted to drinking more while they were in foreign climes. Almost a quarter of those from the county, 23 per cent, admitted they had found themselves in trouble while abroad.

One of those was Vince Acors, a father-of-one from Bromley, who was arrested in Dubai for allegedly having sex on the beach in the Islamic emirate in July, last year.

The United Arab Emirates was the country Brits were most likely to get arrested in, with 294 taken into custody, after traditional holiday favourite Spain, where 2,290 incurred the wrath of the Guardia Civil.

Swearing

A fifth of arrests were for drug offences. Involvement in illegal substances contributed to a quarter of the total of 202 arrests in Thailand.

Topless sunbathing, swearing and public displays of affection also led to arrests in other countries, and the Foreign Office urged holidaymakers to learn about local laws and customs before travelling.

Riga's mayor, Nils Usakovs, has become so fed up with the drunken antics of some British revellers he is preparing a crack-down with a special tourist police force.

Earlier this month he told how it had become "fashionable" among stag parties to urinate against the city's monument of freedom, which commemorates those killed in the war of independence. It comes after a survey by online travel agents Expedia of more than 4,500 hoteliers named British tourists the worst behaved in Europe.

Foreign Office minister Chris Bryant said: "The report highlights just how many British nationals encounter difficulties while abroad. Helping those who do get in trouble is a vital part of our job, but so many of the problems we deal with can be avoided.

"Researching local laws and customs before you travel could avoid time in a foreign jail. Getting comprehensive travel insurance means that while an accident may disrupt your holiday, it won't bankrupt you.

"The message is clear: have a great time while you're away, but make the necessary preparations before you go."

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First Choice

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Big Issue founder Bird says pioneering Wedge can restore community

A SCHEME that encourages London's low-earners to support local shops has been extended into north Kent, **writes Steve Knight.**

More than 1,500 people living in the Erith area of Bexley will benefit from the Wedge card, which provides discounts and special offers to primarily disadvantaged residents living in sheltered accommodation.

The initiative, which has so far been taken up by 32,000 people in 20 neighbourhoods across the capital, was founded three years ago by Big Issue editor John Bird and his daughter Diana.

Wedge's partner in the scheme is Orbit South Housing Association, which provides affordable homes throughout Kent.

Mr Bird said: "Wedge is going to help shops that make the community tick by encouraging people to buy in the local marketplace.

"It's in the family-owned cafés, butchers and bookshops that people get to know one another and become part of their community. If you don't have a community, you're more likely to be lonely and lost.

"Pioneering organisations like Orbit South are taking creative and intelligent steps to close the gap in the community."

While Orbit South residents will receive free Wedge cards, other people living in Erith

will also be able to buy one for £10. Half of that fee will be donated to charity. Wedge is also in negotiations about having the card made available through Bexley council.

More than 40 shops, pubs and businesses have already signed up to the initiative, including IT repair firm Mr Computer.

Owner Nigel Cross said: "The Wedge card is a really exciting and beneficial initiative for the community as I can promote my shop and special offers to the cardholders in the Erith area and those all over London. It's been a long time coming."

Extra income

In addition to being a Wedge card partner, Orbit South is also one of the first organisations signed up to the Local Big Delivery project, which will see the association accept delivery of the Big Issue magazine to provide vendors with extra income.

Head of sustainable communities David Leves said: "We are always keen to ensure we offer residents the best possible service, plus that little bit extra.

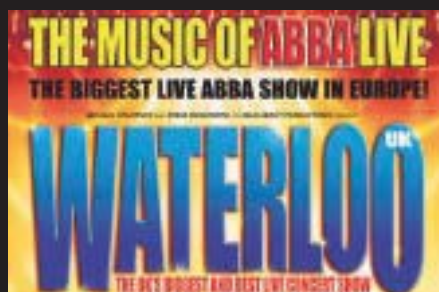
"When we heard about the Wedge card and Local Big Delivery, we knew it was the perfect opportunity to offer residents something more and help build brighter futures for themselves and local businesses."

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Sunday 13th September
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Tickets £12.50



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Walking together

OVER two hundred people from France will hop across the Channel to join Kent folk for a day of walking next weekend.

A handful of guided walks will take place on Sunday, to continue building on the county's links with France.

Routes include the 1.9 mile Royal Military Canal Path, the three mile Western Heights walk and the nine mile North Downs Way National Trail. Later this year, on October 4, another day of walks will take place across the Channel in Wissant, Pas-de-Calais.

Places for this can be booked at www.kent.gov.uk/explorekent or by calling 08458 247600 until September 18.

Danger to health

A SAFETY warning has been issued after crooks stole specialist asbestos removal gear.

Council chiefs say the equipment stolen from the old changing rooms at Hall Place in Bexley is contaminated with asbestos and poses a health risk to anyone who may be sold it on the black market.

Specialist contractors are removing asbestos from the building before it is demolished.

The stolen items included five specialist vacuum cleaners and a wash down boxed trailer.

Fiery family fun

THANET Fire Station throws open its doors next month for a free family fun day.

The station in Margate Road, Broadstairs, is staging the event on Sunday, September 13, between 11am and 4pm.

With a community safety theme, it will include a full programme of fire and rescue demonstrations and a rescue dog display.

Sailing into the record books



Picture: Mark Lloyd

INSPIRATIONAL sailor Hilary Lister is getting closer to setting another world record as she enters the final leg of her trip around the British Isles.

What makes it all the more remarkable is

By **RACHEL MCATHY**

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that she is unable to move her arms and legs, instead commanding her craft using a set of straws and her breath.

Mrs Lister, 36, suffers from Reflex Sympathetic Dystrophy, a degenerative disease which started to show itself when she was a child.

But since discovering sailing at Westbere Sailing Opportunities club near her home in Canterbury in 2003, she has refused to let it stand in the way of realising her dreams. The most recent of which is to become the first disabled woman to sail solo around Britain.

She set off in May, on her second attempt to complete the course, which includes venturing into the North and Irish seas as well as the Caledonian Canal.

During her first attempt, in 2008, the trip had to be postponed at Newlyn, in Cornwall, due to bad weather and technical problems.

Undeterred she returned to Newlyn this year to start again from where she left off, determined to finish it this time.

But this will be far from her first achievement, she is already in the record books as the first quadriplegic to perform a solo-sail across the English Channel in 2005. Two years later, she was able to add another feat to the list, becoming the first female quadri-

plegic to sail solo around the Isle of Wight.

Mrs Lister sails her boat, the Artemis 20, using a 'sip and puff' system, enabling her to steer and control the sails using her breath.

Three straws, which are hooked up by pressure sensors, control a computer already programmed to react to her commands.

She uses her breath to give directions. For example, one straw works the tiller, so if she puffs it will go to port and if she sips it will go to starboard.

Each night she is towed into a port, with a total of 40 stops along the way.

She is expected to receive a hero's welcome when she returns to Dover Harbour on Tuesday.

On the day, KCC cabinet member for communities Mike Hill will make a special presentation to Mrs Lister and her team to mark their enormous achievements.

Cllr Hill, also an avid sailor, said: "It has been a real honour to meet Hilary and support her latest challenge.

"I hope her tremendous efforts have inspired other people to have the determination to overcome their own obstacles and we very much look forward to welcoming her back to Kent."

Mrs Lister has a trust set up in her name, which raises money to help other disabled sailors. Through her round Britain challenge, she also hopes to encourage and inspire people towards achieving their own goals.

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Prices before discount: Gorillas (18+) from £25 and baboons (10-17 year olds) from £20. Pre-booking is essential.

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Cafe cash given to youth group

YOUNG people are set to benefit from a grant of more than £300,000 to launch a new youth cafe in Maidstone town centre.

The £335,802 grant for the meeting place in the county town is part of the £3.9 million Young People's Fund 2 programme (YPF2) set aside by the Big Lottery Fund to help 15 youth projects across the south east. The funding will go towards creating the cafe - called Switch - in a building just off the High Street, to offer youngsters a safe place to meet where they can access training and work experience.

The news has been welcomed by Maidstone Youth Forum, which has been campaigning and fundraising to set up the cafe for 11 to 21-year-olds for the past decade.

Display lets you sea change idea

RESIDENTS have been flocking to the Dover Discovery Centre to see how the £3.8 million Government Sea Change grant could be spent.

The Make Dover exhibition sets out the benefits of the cable car plans, which split the town when first announced by the district council. Many criticised the proposals saying the money should be spent on tourist attractions.

But studies looking at whether the landmark can be built are currently under way, with planners hoping for it to be a "global icon" linking the castle to the town and seaford.

Sea Change funding comes from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) with Dover Pride leading the project.

TV presenter to dance on Strictly

CRIMEWATCH UK presenter Rav Wilding has been revealed as a contestant for the latest series of the BBC's Strictly Come Dancing.

Mr Wilding, who was born in Canterbury and now lives in Maidstone, has been paired with the show's new professional dancer Aliona Vilani.

Talking to the BBC, he said: "I have absolutely no dance experience whatsoever. I don't drink anymore so I can't even claim to have drunkenly staggered on to a dance floor in recent years."

Wilding has presented Crimewatch since 2004. Until 2008 he also worked as a detective constable for the Metropolitan police force, but took a sabbatical to focus on TV work.

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By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knightk@kosmedia.co.uk

PUB landlords have been keeping their fingers crossed for a hot and sunny Bank Holiday weekend.

Kent usually enjoys better weather than the rest of the UK, being close to the Continent, but temperatures and conditions have varied this summer with heavy showers one weekend and scorching sun the next.

The Met Office had been predicting temperatures in excess of 20C this weekend, which landlords hoped would provide pubs with a late boost before the end of the beer-garden season.

Phil Thorley, operations director of the Broadstairs-based Thorley Taverns chain, told Kent on Sunday that sunny weather was "a pub's best salesman".

He added: "The weather has a tremendous effect on our trade, which is why my managers and I use the five-day weather forecasts so we can plan ahead."

"Hot and sunny days almost always lead to an increase in business, so it's important we know when they are coming because we have to make sure our staffing and ordering

Publicans bank on a boost from holiday sunshine

patterns are right. I checked the weather earlier this week and it was expected to get nicer as the Bank Holiday weekend went on, so we're hopefully in for a really good few days' business."

Earlier this week the national Punch Taverns chain – which owns several pubs in Kent including R Bar in Gravesend and the Gun and Spitroast in Horsmonden, near Maidstone – announced it was looking to sell about 1,500 of its properties.

The struggling firm, which has massive

debts of about £3.5 billion, said the "unhelpful" summer weather was partly to blame for the decision.

Finance boss Phil Dutton said: "For beer gardens to thrive and generate good business, the sun needs to shine. But the parasols have been more like umbrellas."

But, Mr Thorley, whose firm runs 21 pubs in east Kent as well as clubs, restaurants and function rooms, told Kent on Sunday he had experienced no such problems.

He said: "I think in Thanet we are lucky to

enjoy something of a micro-climate, as the weather is usually better here than it is in the rest of Kent and the rest of the country.

"A lot of the severe weather tends to pass us by, so our pubs with beer gardens have been doing particularly well."

"I also think we've been fortunate in that this summer has been much better than the previous two."

"Last week's Water Gala in Broadstairs, for instance, was the best for 10 years and that had a lot to do with the great weather we had."

Christian Mills, manager of the Waggon at Hale pub in Chatham, was not as pleased with the weather of the past month and was keeping his fingers crossed for the Bank Holiday.

He said: "The weather hasn't been that bad but it's not been great either, which can be a big problem when you have a large beer garden like ours."

"It's important we increase our trade during the summer months. If it rained all summer then you would certainly notice it come the end of the year."

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AIYEOLA: Caught by UK Border Agency

False papers lead Nigerian 'nurse' to jail

A NIGERIAN who tried to get a job as a nurse using false identity papers has been jailed for six months.

Maidstone Crown Court was told Victor Aiyeola, 25, had attempted to obtain work at Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham, in April.

His application included bogus references, and investigations by the NHS fraud unit showed his leave to remain document and the biographical data pages in his Nigerian passport were false.

Further investigations showed Aiyeola had entered the UK on a visitor's visa on March 30, 2004, but had not left the country when it expired, nor had he initially made an application to the Home Office to stay in the country.

Aiyeola, of Romford, Essex, was arrested at the hospital on August 5 on what should have been his first day at work. He pleaded guilty to possessing a false identity document.

Sgt Keith Michel, from the UK Border Agency joint immigration and crime team, said: "We do not tolerate document fraud and treat this type of crime very seriously."

"We are committed to working with our partner agencies to ensure those responsible are prosecuted. The NHS fraud unit is to be congratulated on their work for this case."

"Anyone who suspects illegal workers are being employed by businesses in Kent should contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111, where anonymity can be assured."

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Farmers raise a glass to cider

THE GROWING fashion for sipping traditional pear cider served in a glass with ice during the summer months has given a boost to fruit farmers.

Roz Day, of Great Tong Farm, near Headcorn, said she decided to start producing pear cider, or perry as it is also known, three years ago and sales have been growing steadily ever since.

"I had a hunch it would become more popular," she said. "I actually did it behind my husband's back because we already produce pear

as a juice from comice [variety] and I thought I would try the perry."

Great Tong Farm Perry is very much a Kent affair, with the drink pressed and produced at Biddenden Vineyards, near Ashford, where it is also sold.

The perry is also sold direct from the Days' farm, which has 15 acres of pear orchards, and at Brogdale, near Faversham, the home of the National Fruit Collection.

However, Mrs Day said the perry also proved popular at the Taste of London show, which is a four-day

event for restaurants and foodies in Regents Park.

"It is a very popular drink," she said. "They are all different, ours is very much a pear cider and is made from the conference variety.

"It used to be made from perry pears, which is how it originally got its name, but they are more or less no longer around."

Market research has shown that while two years ago we spent £3.4 million annually on pear cider, in 2008 drinkers spent £46m.

The drink has whole bar tents

devoted to Brothers Festival Pear at Glastonbury. The brand is now sold at festivals around the country and comes in other varieties including strawberry and toffee apple.

Gaymers, Bulmers and Kopparberg are the biggest selling of the pear ciders.

Bryan Neaves, of Little Sharsted Farm, near Sittingbourne, said pear growers are now able to sell the conferences that don't meet supermarket appearance requirements to be turned into cider for between £100 and £120 a tonne.



CROP: The popularity of pear cider has been a hit with farmers

Not such a plum deal



COMPLAINT: Farmers say supermarkets are giving preference to foreign plums

SUPERMARKETS have been blamed for tonnes of Kent-grown plums set to go to waste because they cannot be sold.

The National Farmers' Union (NFU) said despite good weather conditions producing a 'vintage year' for British plums, retailers were able to pocket a better profit from overseas fruit than from home-grown produce.

Imported plums were being bought at 35p a punnet and sold on for £1, while British plums cost 70p a punnet and were sold in supermarkets for £1, the union said.

One Kent fruit farmer, who asked not to be named, said: "It's been horrendous. We've picked them and we cannot sell them. It's not been a bumper crop but it's been a good crop.

"With the supermarkets the problem has been that the space available for UK plums is insufficient for the numbers we have.

"If you go to your local Tesco and look carefully you might find one tray of English plums marked up at the very, very top, which happened to me this morning."

He said he had 8,000 trays of plums wait-

By **JENNA PUDELEK**

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ing to be sold. But the current rate of sales was only 200 trays a day.

Another farmer he knew had 157 tonnes of the fruit that he needed to get rid of.

"The price we are getting is pathetically little, we would have made more money by just walking away from them," the farmer added.

Dr Chris Hartfield, the NFU's horticulture advisor, urged consumers to buy British plums where possible and ask for them in supermarket where they couldn't find them.

Mark-up

He said: "They [supermarkets] can make much more of a mark-up, never mind supporting the British economy, never mind food miles, or sourcing British seasonal food."

Another fruit farmer from Kent, Robert Pascall, said that 95 per cent of his Victoria plum crop was still waiting to be sold. He said other farmers had not even bothered to harvest their plums because they couldn't sell them.

"What's frustrating for us as growers is that we all knew this was about to happen and yet there's been no uptake – the orders have been pathetic.

"We're producing a vintage crop of plums which is being denied to the public."

The problems have also come after recent calls from the Government for farmers to produce more food, and claims from supermarkets that they support British seasonal produce, the NFU added.

Tesco refused to comment, but the British Retailers Consortium has released a statement on behalf of the major supermarkets.

Andrew Opie, BRC Food Director, said: "Our members have confirmed to us British plums are widely available in their stores. They're easily identifiable as British and clearly labelled. They're continuing to maximise the proportion of British plums they sell – consistent with customer demand.

"One of our major members told us they're selling dramatically more British plums this year because of last year's poor harvest.

"More British plums will be coming through as the season develops."

RSPCA hunt for puppy owners

PUPPIES stuffed into a bag and dumped over a garden fence are now being cared for by the RSPCA.

The owners of a house in Rydal Drive, Bexleyheath, discovered the seven-week-old Staffordshire bull terriers on Sunday night when they heard crying coming from their back garden.

Insp Stewart Toop said: "These are tiny puppies and should still be with their mother. We would like to hear from anyone who knows who dumped them. They were wrapped in a child's white padded jacket."

Anyone with information can call the RSPCA on 0300 1234 999.

Eurostar stopped

ABOUT 500 passengers were left stranded in the Channel Tunnel for over five hours on Tuesday, after their train suffered a power failure and ground to a halt.

Those travelling on the Eurotunnel service from France to the UK became stuck when the locomotive pulling the carriages suffered a "rare but unfortunate" loss of traction and power at about 7.15pm, causing a backlog of delays.

Services in both tunnels were suspended and it was not until just after midnight when a rescue train was able to tow the carriages to the tunnel exit at Newington.

Both tunnels had resumed full service by 6am on Wednesday and an investigation was ongoing into the cause of the failure.

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Fan's facts and figures publication charts beloved team through thick and thin

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

SEVENTY years ago today, a referee asked police to clear the terraces of angry Gillingham FC supporters who were on the verge of a riot.

He took the unusual step during a 1939 Southern League game between the Gills and Newport County Reserves, which descended into chaos after a string of controversial decisions by the man in the middle.



The long-forgotten incident is one of hundreds dredged up by lifelong supporter David Elligate, whose book, *Gillingham FC On This Day*, goes on sale in September.

Today also marks 16 years since Chelsea picked up a 2-1 victory in their first ever visit to Priestfield, and 22 years (and one day) since the Gills' memorable 8-1 destruction of Southend United.

David said he decided to research his beloved team's history after being shocked at by a teenage fan's admission that he knew nothing of legendary former manager Keith Peacock's association with the club.

He said: "All the people who lived near me when I was growing up were Gillingham fans, so I learned a lot about the club's history from their stories and those of my dad and my uncles."

"My friends were the same and I remember one of their granddads used to tell us

Gills history book hits the back of the net



WEMBLEY WAY: Gills fans savour the atmosphere during May's play-off final

about the time in 1908 when New Brompton – as Gillingham were then known – played Manchester City in the cup.

"But a lot of people only know their football history through what they experience themselves, so unless somebody tells you how popular a manager Keith Peacock was, you're never going to know."

"Obviously I can't go around talking to everybody about the history of Gillingham, so I thought I'd write about it instead."

David's book, which will be available to buy exclusively from the club shop until the end of October, is the latest in a series of *On This Day* books from Pitch Publishing.

The facts and figures contained within are

correct up until August 1 of this year, meaning the entry for May 23 includes last season's League Two play-off final victory at Wembley.

David, 63, said: "Gillingham's biggest ever opening day win at Priestfield was in 2001 when they beat Preston 5-0 – which was also how much they beat Swindon by on the opening day of this season."

"I was sweating on that for a bit because I knew if they scored a sixth it was going to ruin my book."

The retired accountant has supported the Gills through thick and thin over the years and has no regrets about following his hometown club.

"Fans of lower-league clubs are just as passionate and proud of their players as those of the bigger teams, if not more so, because when we get success we value it much more."

"It annoys me when I hear Liverpool fans moaning about only finishing second in the league. I'm like, 'What planet are they on?'" he said.

• *Gillingham FC On This Day: History, Facts and Figures from Every Day of the Year*, is priced £9.99.

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How a moth threatens to weaken our conker crop

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

CONKER fights could become a thing of the past if a hitch-hiking moth continues to wreak havoc on Kent's horse chestnut trees.

Scientists believe the leaf miner species may have entered Britain through being trapped in cars, with their increased presence likely to have a big impact on one of the country's most popular playground pastimes.

Dr Kate Lewthwaite, manager of the Nature's Calendar project at the Woodland Trust, said that numbers of the pest had grown rapidly since they were first reported in England seven years ago.

She said: "They've gone a long way in a short period of time and the whole of the south east is now covered in them. The horse chestnut is not what we consider to be a native tree – I think it was brought over here from Turkey about 400 years ago – so it

does not have so much associated wildlife compared to say an oak tree.

"Therefore there are unlikely to be any major problems apart from the reduced quality of conkers, which clearly people will still be unhappy about because it's a very popular game."

Also known as *cameraria ohridella*, the larvae of the leaf miner burrow within the tissue of the horse chestnut leaves, causing them to brown, dry and eventually die.

Heavy infestations of the pest could therefore see some trees struggle to produce enough nutrients to grow good-sized conkers.

Dr Lewthwaite dismissed the possibility that an early autumn was to blame for the deterioration of the leaves.

The Woodland Trust has been recording signs of autumn with the help of nature-recorders across the UK for the last decade. These signs indicate how seasonal events are affected by changes in the climate year-on-year.

Dr Lewthwaite appealed for the public's help with the Nature's Calendar project.

She said: "People have been recording the signs of the seasons for centuries. It was once the pastime of naturalists, but now it's incredibly important to us due to climate change."

"We only have 10 years' worth of data for autumn because I don't think many people like exploring it."

"Spring is a bright, colourful month but I think autumn is seen as being quite depressing because it means winter is on the way."

Visit www.naturescalendar.org.uk for more information.



UP CLOSE: A helicopter will ride alongside the WWII plane

Tour offers first-hand experience of Spitfire's glory days

A PIONEERING new venture aims to recapture the fighting spirit of the Battle of Britain by allowing people to fly side-by-side a working Spitfire.

The Action Stations experience, which is being supported by KOS Media, has been launched to coincide with the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of World War Two and is sure to attract history and aviation enthusiasts from far and wide.

As well as giving people the chance to fly alongside the Spirit of Kent aircraft in a helicopter, those who sign up for a place on one of the tours will also visit the county's fascinating war museums and witness the restoration of another iconic fighter plane – the Boulton Paul Defiant.

Appreciate

The venture is the brainchild of Canterbury-based A4A Ltd owner Steve Burt, who says he wants to rekindle interest in the Battle of Britain.

He said: "There seems to be a severe lack of knowledge today about the battle and its significance to our country, so with its 70th anniversary coming up next year I thought it was timely to come up with a venture that would allow people to reconnect."

"Only when you get up in the air and see how small the south east of England is and how close it is to France do you appreciate how difficult it must have been for our fighter pilots to defend us."

People who sign up to Action Station's platinum tour will be flown over Kent in an executive helicopter, from where they will be able to enjoy a mid-air Spitfire display performed by pilot Dan Griffith.

By **STEVE KNIGHT**

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

Lunch is provided at Dover's luxury Walleys Court Hotel while there will also be visits to the Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge, the Battle of Britain memorial at Capel le Ferne, and the Manston-based RAF Manston History Museum and the Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum.

There will also be the chance to watch members of the Medway Aircraft Preservation Society carry out restoration work on a Boulton Paul Defiant at their base in Rochester.

Mr Burt said: "As we approach the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Britain, I feel it is important that we use the very best technology and resources available to allow people to see Kent and the Spitfire from the air in addition to the excellent museums we have in the county."

"I think that in the times we are living in, we need to reflect, admire and be thankful to the people of Kent and the pilots and ground crew who kept these marvellous aircraft flying."

"Without them we wouldn't enjoy the freedom we have today."

The platinum tour series starts on Sunday, September 13, priced at £652.50 per person plus VAT. Other tours are available from £150 per person, all-inclusive. Visit www.goactionstations.co.uk for more information or call 01227 721929 to book.

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CHRIS BRITCHER
CAMPAIGN EDITOR
chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk



In search of a little ooh la la!

KENT food and drink has long provided stiff competition to their European counterparts, with our own beautiful wines and cheeses.

But what about one of France's most iconic dishes – escargot? A delicacy to some, but met with much apprehension from others, snails are far from becoming a staple part of the British diet. But they could be closer to home than you think, as one of just three snail farms in the country can be found here in Kent.

Reared from a spare room in Littlebourne, Canterbury, Helen Howard has around 5,000 snails, kept inside to encourage them to lay eggs all year round.

She sells them on to county restaurants, although she admits the recession has dealt this trade a bit of a blow.

Much of her business as H & R H Escargots is now selling directly to the public, particularly at produce fairs – including the Eurofair. But she does face some nervous customers.

"If people have eaten them before abroad they will try mine," she said. "The hurdle is if they have not had them before."

"Events are a good place for people to try something they have not tried before."

The snails take six months to grow from egg to a size ready for the table. Every day, they are given a shower and then fed.

This includes a lot of dried milk for the babies, and chalk and cereal for the adults. They are also given fresh food and have a particular fondness for spinach.

When it comes to preparing snails for the table, Helen believes in slow cooking to soften them.

"I cook mine longer so they are not chewy," she said. "I cook

Canterbury plays host to the Eurofair and Kent Food & Drink Festival next month – a showcase of delicious produce from near and afar. As the countdown gets under way, RACHEL MCATHY goes on the hunt for a taste of France in the Garden of England.

them in Kentish cider, herbs and spices and then put them in a slow cooker for an hour and a half."

For those not quite ready for snails, Kent also has a mouth-watering array of cheeses, which aim to out-flavour the French.

George Jessel, from the Kent Cheese Company, a soft cheese producer, effectively puts his brie, blue cheese and camembert varieties in direct competition with France.

"I am going head-to-head with France, but I just think, why not," he said. "Our cows are just as good as theirs, my cheesemaker is just as good as theirs and so our cheese is just as good as theirs. The most important thing is it all tastes a bit different. We have just got to do it better than France."

The Kent Cheese Company offers four brands of cheese, Penstock Blue, Brabourne Brie, Chaucers Choice and Kentish Crown, producing around 150 kilograms a week.

Elsewhere in Kent, British cheese is also thriving, such as at Winterdale Cheesemakers, situated in the North Downs.

Its handmade cheddar cheese, Winterdale Shaw, along with its smoked variety, are made using milk from 85 Friesian dairy cows at the family farm.

The process of making cheese starts at 9am, with the milking

of the cows. The fresh milk is then taken to the cheese barn within 20 minutes. Still warm, the milk has starter culture added, which will give the cheese its flavour, and is left for an hour before adding the rennet to set it.

Once it forms a yoghurt-type consistency, the cheesemakers cut the curd into fine pieces, increase the temperature and leave it for an hour. After this, the whey is drained off and sent to a nearby pig farm, making way for the 'cheddering' process.

The curd is cut and stacked into blocks, put into a milling machine and then into moulds, where it is pressed for three days. Each truckle of cheese is hand-wrapped in muslin and placed underground in chalky caves, to mature for up to ten months.

Winterdale Cheesemakers produce between 200 and 300 kilos of cheese a week, which is supplied to a variety of places ranging from high-end restaurants such as Fortnum and Mason in London, to the local farmers shop.

"We have even had requests from Sweden," Robin said. "But we have enough demand over here at the moment."

• For more tastes of Kent with a European twist visit the Canterbury Eurofair and Kent Food and Drink Festival at Dane John Gardens, from September 25-27.



See some delicious sea food as town hosts tasty festival

ENJOY a taste of the seaside in Sandgate, at the Sea and Food Festival this weekend.

Events include yacht races, tug-of-war contests, seaside favourites Punch and Judy and bouncy castles for the kids.

But the best of the village's food will also be on display, with Spanish tapas from Tintos, Mexican fajitas from Escondido, Nepalese dishes from the Gurkha Palace and seafood from Griggs.

The event will raise money for the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution.

Apple Sunday celebrates the joy of apples on farm

SAMPLE some of the best apples in the county, on Apple Sunday next month.

The event will take place at Mount Ephraim, near Faversham, and is an opportunity for members of the public to learn how to grow the ever-popular fruit.

Running from 11am to 5pm on September 13, visitors can take part in fruit tasting and apple pressing. There will also be local craft stalls, face painting, music on the terrace and a children's nature trail. Lunch and tea will also be available.

To find the farm follow signs from the A2 and A299. It is situated in the middle of Herhill village, 200 yards from Three Horse Shoes pub.

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The market's the place to go

FOR a taste of true Kent produce, why not head to one of the county's farmers markets this weekend?

For information and timetables for events taking place visit www.kentfarmersmarkets.org.uk.



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KENT ON SUNDAY

COMMENT

Rising to challenge

WHEN Schools Secretary Ed Balls announced the launch of the 'national challenge' for underperforming schools last year, he received a letter of complaint from Kent County Council.

The then education chief Cllr Chris Wells told him he was damaging the morale of teachers and pupils by threatening to close 33 schools in the county unless GCSE results improved, and his sentiments were shared by angry headteachers. Fast-forward 14 months and KCC is busy celebrating the achievements of a third of those schools that have already reached the target of 30 per cent A* to C grades including English and maths.

Many people were quick to criticise the Government's hard-line approach at the time, but it seems the launch of the national challenge was just the incentive many of those involved required. Rather than damage the morale of teachers and pupils, it appears to have served as motivation instead.

When it comes to the education of our children there is no point beating about the bush.

We may only be 14 months into what is essentially a three-year plan, but so far the national challenge appears to be working.

Blue-blooded fan

GILLINGHAM FC historian David Elligate was quick to point out to our reporter this week that only he spends 'part' of his free time researching his boyhood team.

The life-long fan – author of Gillingham FC On This Day – insists that despite having an interesting Gills fact for every day of the year, he does have a life outside of football.

It's okay David, we believe you.

OPINION:

The last meal of your chicken

PETER KINDERSLEY explains some of the reasons why your family should still make a point of eating organic food



account for several key reasons people buy organic produce.

Pesticides and chemical residues are chief on this list. Whereas organic farming negates or minimises pesticide use, industrial methods constantly explore new ways of increasing yields through the use of chemicals.

There is also very little known about the cocktail effect – mixing several of these chemicals together in your body at any one time.

What you eat eats

Another consideration is the growing conditions of the food and the welfare of stock.

It is not just the food you consume that counts, but also the nutrients used to grow that crop or in the case of meat, what they are fed.

Corn-fed chicken sounds great doesn't it? Supermarkets sell it at a premium, but how many chemicals were used to grow the corn, and how was it processed? Have you ever considered the last meal fed to your roast chicken or lamb chops?

Again, organic farming provides a natural and safe alterna-

tive – it also happens to be better for the animals.

Sustainable farming

It is not all about the food we eat. We must also consider the future, our children and grandchildren are being handed a world saturated in chemicals and covered in acres of mono-culture. Where will it end?

Organic farming has all of history to demonstrate its sustainability and success – industrial methods have spent a few short years damaging the soil and irrevocably changing landscapes.

Yes, our populations are expanding and I understand such techniques provide short-term solutions to hunger and famine, but these are long-term problems that need careful consideration rather than an immediate grasp at the latest fad.

Pure enjoyment

And finally, there is taste. In their hunt for higher yields, more nutrition and harder crops, taste becomes the lowest priority. Unlike all the other factors mentioned so far, taste is totally rela-

tive and a different experience for each individual – what I enjoy others may not.

However, time after time organic consumers, chefs, visitors to our conference centre and even the cynical amongst the industrial farming world admit organic food tastes better.

The flavours are stronger and more mature, the meat more tender and the eating experience ultimately far more pleasurable.

Arguably that is a health benefit in its own right. We all experience a feeling of satisfaction after a good meal (or indigestion and unease after a bad one), this leads to positive emotions and greater levels of relaxation – surely we should also consider those health benefits in our choice of food for ourselves and our families rather than just those pointed out by the FSA?

• Peter Kindersley is the owner of Sheepdrove Organic Farm. He was one of the founders of the publishing company Dorling Kindersley.

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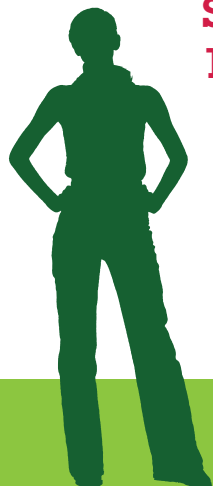


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Mail service in decline

So postmen in Kent and elsewhere have been on strike. Can you blame them? One reason they are striking is cuts to services. These are the ones I can recall from the past few years:

- The closure of thousands of post offices, many in Kent.
- Collections from post boxes reduced from three a day to one a day, and the end of Sunday collections altogether. So if you post a first class letter on a Saturday afternoon it will take three days to arrive. If there's a Bank Holiday Monday involved it could be four days.
- End of the second delivery. Not that this affected me much, but it might have affected others.
- Postmen now start their deliveries far later, so people get their mail later.

If this is how Royal Mail treats customers, I dread to think how it treats its workers.

Marc Hursfield, Northfleet

Manston – a warning

In the early days of the campaign against the expanded use of Stansted Airport, one of the biggest misapprehensions was that a few extra flights and passengers on the existing runway wouldn't be that noticeable.

Promises of jobs and economic growth (which have never materialised on anything like the promised scale) were dangled as carrots to smooth the way for planning permission. I surmise that those living in Ramsgate and environs take a similar view of proposals to expand Manston Airport and tend to think the benefits will outweigh the costs.

Be warned – they won't. Today, people living not only in the shadow of Stansted but up to 50 miles away know this, having learned the hard way. They are no longer under any illusions about what the "airport in the countryside" has become since its growth from humble origins as a wartime airbase. They know how noise from overflying is especially

Letters harder to intercept

Your story headlined 'Box to leave its stamp on mail' was most interesting and thought provoking (KoS, August 23).

There used to be another Victorian lamp box near the Priory in Dartford, but it was stolen five years ago. Let's hope that same does not happen to the surviving one in Hythe.

Letter boxes are slowly disappearing anyway as the New Labour/Blue Labour coalition government runs the Royal Mail down: anyone can tell you where there "used to be one until recently".

This is largely to satisfy the directive

from the real government in Brussels about introducing competition and limiting state aid.

But there is probably going to be greater demand for postal services as the Government steps up its drive to spy on emails, telephone calls, choice of website and text messages. It's far harder for them to intercept your letters.

Although the 81p stamp you showed was pretty, it's worth noting that a letter to Europe weighing less than two thirds of and ounce may be sent for 56p.

Quentin Williamson, Dartford

disturbing both at night and in the 'shoulder' periods of 11pm-11.30pm and from 6am-7am, not least since the rural nature of the region means the sound isn't masked by other sources. It only takes a couple of wakings to ruin an otherwise good night's sleep.

Cargo planes – often older and heavier than passenger planes – are a regular focus for complaints. And late night and early morning noise from airport-related road traffic is a problem for those living nearer the airport, with further issues arising from rat runs and increases in fly-parking.

Loss of tranquillity in hitherto unspoilt areas has changed the character of some of the region's loveliest tourist spots at quite some distance from Stansted.

Broadstairs, Margate and Herne Bay would seem to be in line for similar change should

the Manston plans for longer operational hours go ahead. No doubt there are other local havens that would be similarly compromised, with adverse impacts on the tourist industry.

Be warned: it starts small, then spreads. A "few extra planes" will lead to an application for a few more on top, with more traffic on the roads as well as in the sky. The likelihood of further growth by small increases at regular intervals is not something that can be ignored, or something that will ever go away.

And a handful more low-skilled jobs at the airport and a few quid extra in the pocket of the airport owner will never properly compensate the communities affected for the adverse changes that expansion will bring.

Carol Barbone, Stop Stansted Expansion, Bishop's Stortford

YOUR LETTERS

KOS Media welcomes your comments and letters for publication. Please send correspondence to: Letters to the Editor, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR. Alternatively fax them to: 01303 817002, or email them to editorial@kosmedia.co.uk. Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include a daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Thin end of the wedge

Graham Minty's letter (KoS, August 16) condemning Brian MacDowall and Phil Grainger for their anti-speed camera stance, seems to go on and shoot his own argument down.

He says "most crashes can be attributed to inappropriate use of speed combined with the lack of ability and attention of the driver to road and weather conditions".

So how does a camera that can only measure a fixed speed stop any of the above?

Even SPECs cameras only measure average speed over several miles. They don't take into account ever-changing hazards and the driver's ability to adjust speed accordingly.

He writes about the aftermath of a single vehicle accident and assumes it was speed alone that was the cause.

It could have been somebody reacting to a bee or wasp in the vehicle, changing a CD, looking for something in the glove box, etc – the possibilities are endless.

And if it was speed, how about all the people who didn't crash, are they all going to be lumped together, the considerate along with the dangerous?

But, of course, this is not about speed cameras. If we accept Mr Minty's argument for cameras, where is the next step going to take us? Vehicle speeds controlled by roadside beacons? Already the Government is talking about a mandatory communication box in cars for this purpose. It will then be able to also enforce parking infringements, road tolling, record time and distance travelled and store every journey you make on a database which will be open for others to nose into your private life.

But you will never know who's looking, or why you never got that job or were refused a visa or passport or can't get credit, because somebody somewhere has looked up you driving history and classes you as "unsuitable".

Terry Hudson, Herne Bay

Letters continue on page 30

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BIRTHS

ALLEN/BLAND-FORD

Richard Allen and Stefanie Blandford of Hythe celebrate the birth of their daughter Maisie Heather Allen on 16th August 2009.

BRUTY

Wendy and Mark of Ramsgate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Sienna Christina, born on 8th August 2009 at QEQM weighing 6lb 12oz. Mummy and Daddys special little angel.

DIGHTON / DONNELLY

Kain David Lee Dighton born on 16th August 2009 weighing 9lb 2oz. son to Natasha Donnelly and Kevin Dighton in Maidstone.

FOORD

Lonny David John born on the 18th August 2009 weighing 9lb 10oz. Son to Peter and Emma Foord of Sittingbourne.

HYDE

Peter Hyde and Amy Jull welcome their beautiful baby girl Lily Ann Hyde to the world, born on the 13th August 2009.

KIDDELL

Christina and Asa of Margate are delighted to announce the birth of their beautiful daughter Isabelle Esther Toni Kiddell, born on 4th August 2009 at QEQM, weighing 6lb 12oz. Sister to Katelin and Asa Junior.

LYNCH

Cherie and Mick Lynch celebrate the birth of their daughter Shona Kathleen Lynch on 4th August 2009 weighing 5lbs 8oz.

MCPHERSON

Riley James McPherson born on 15th August 2009 weighing 8lb 3oz to Jade Michelle McPherson in Maidstone.

PEARCE

Keira Iris born on 17th August 2009 weighing 8lbs 2oz. Daughter to Michelle and Alex of Maidstone

TROTT

Peter Charles Trott born on 9th August 2009 at Maidstone Hospital weighing 6lbs 12oz. Son to Jeremy and Sally Trott in Bearsted

WATERS

Paul Waters and Amii Dobson would like to announce the birth of their son Oliver Joseph Waters, born on 28/08/09 weighing 7lbs 3ozs.

DEATHS

BUCK

Albert Edward Buck passed away on 23rd August aged 84 years. Dearly loved husband to May and dearly loved father to Michael and Chris and grandfather to Michael, Leon, Julie, Sebastian and Charlotte. Funeral service to be held at Medway Crematorium on Friday 4th September at 11 am. Donations can be made to the Alzheimers Society.

DAVIDSON

Eileen Rose Davidson nee Beard died peacefully at home on 15th August 2009. She will be sadly missed by her husband, family and friends. Funeral took place on 27th August 2009 at Vinters Crematorium.

IVES

Brennand Desmond, formerly Pharmacist in Borough Green, sadly passed away on Sunday 16th August 2009. Funeral already taken place.

JARVIS

John Jarvis died peacefully on the 21st August 2009 aged 68. Dearly loved husband of Patricia, father of Howard and Daniel and grandfather of Lila-Sofija, Isabelle and Andreas.

JENNER

Arthur "Vic" passed away peacefully at The Vale on Friday 21st August 2009 aged 93 years. Funeral service to take place at Vinters Park Crematorium on Monday 7th September 2009 at 12.30pm. Flowers or donations to the RAF Benevolent Fund c/o Doves funerals, 1 Knightbridge Street, Maidstone Kent, ME15 6LP. Tel 01622 688662.

LANE

Anne Clare Lane of Cliftonville died peacefully at Pilgrims Hospice on August 22nd 2009 aged 71. Funeral service at Union Church Margate 2pm on 1st September 2009. Enquiries Gore Brothers, Margate. She will be dearly missed by her family and friends but is reunited with Peter.

ROUSE

Rouse, Eddie. Died peacefully at home in Whitstable on 18th August aged 63, beloved husband of Chris, father of Stuart. Much love and thanks to the doctors and nurses of The Chaucer for their excellent care and kindness. Funeral service at Thanet crematorium on Tuesday 1st September at 1.20pm. Flowers or donations for Cancer Research or the Colostomy Association, c/o C. W. Lyons and Son, 51-53 Oxford Street, Whitstable, Kent CT5 1DB.

TODD

Robert Todd (Bob) passed away peacefully on 22nd August 2009. Bob will be sadly missed by his wife Betty and all his family. Funeral Service to take place at Tunbridge Wells Crematorium on 7th September 2009 at 3pm. Family flowers only but donations if desired to Hospice in the Weald c/o Hickmotts

WHITE

John Arthur White died on 13th August 2009 in Maidstone Hospital aged 81 years. Family flowers only but donations to the Heart of Kent Hospice.

WILLIAMS

Lucy Frances Williams on 20th August 2009 aged 88 years. dearly loved Sister to Gwen and Aunt to Philip. Funeral service at Vinters Park at 2.00 on 11th September. All friends welcome.

saying in Parliament that "we all know British bacon is best" when the Cabinet Office hadn't bought a single rasher.

Simon Hart, chief executive, Countryside Alliance

Trust parents' instincts

I lost my young daughter to meningitis and was extremely concerned to read the news of two-year-old Georgia Keeling.

She was misdiagnosed with swine flu and died from meningitis just three hours later.

Doctors thought my daughter Jessica, also two, had a gastric infection and she died from the devastating disease the very next day.

Sadly, both deaths show how easy it is to confuse meningitis with less-deadly and more common diseases, such as flu. Hearing how Georgia died from meningitis just three hours after paramedics gave her Tamiflu should hopefully remind people how important it is to know the symptoms of meningitis and not confuse it with other illnesses.

I am really concerned that people, particularly children, will be misdiagnosed during the swine flu pandemic without being properly examined and looked at. Georgia's sad case proves that this can be fatal.

Losing Jessica was the most traumatic experience of my life. I would urge everyone to make sure they are fully clued-up on the symptoms of meningitis – especially as it can kill in less than four hours. Make sure you know what to look out for. In babies, an unusual cry, dislike of being handled and refusing feeds can indicate meningitis. Other signs include a headache, stiff neck, dislike of bright lights, cold hands and feet, fever, vomiting, confusion and drowsiness.

I support Meningitis UK, which advises parents to trust their instincts. I couldn't agree more. If you suspect something's seriously wrong with your child, then please persist and make sure they get the treatment they deserve.

Call the charity on 0117 373 7373 or visit www.meningitisuk.org, where you can get a free information pack.

Kelly Crisp, Hertfordshire

Go on, take the plunge

I am writing to let people in Kent know about our new skydive campaign.

If any readers have ever thought about doing something special to raise money for charity but want to do something different, a sponsored skydive is the perfect challenge.

Anyone who raises £395 or more for us at World Cancer Research Fund (WCRF) will also be able to skydive for free.

Any money raised from a sponsored skydive will help us to continue to fund research into the link between lifestyle and cancer.

If you want to find out more about how to take part in a sponsored skydive, visit www.wcrf-uk.org/fundraising or call 0207 343 4200.

Natalie Tarrant, events manager, World Cancer Research Fund

Nurturing and nursing

The countdown has begun for local primary schools and youth groups to sign up for Mini Pots of Care, a creative and educational fundraising activity for three to 11-year-olds that raises funds for the Marie Curie Nursing Service. There are just four weeks to go until the registration deadline and Marie Curie Cancer Care is inviting children to get their hands dirty for charity and have a go at growing their own daffodils.

Each child will receive a free pot and daffodil bulb to plant in the autumn term. The children will then care for their flower over the winter to reflect the work of Marie Curie Nurses who provide free care to people with a terminal illness in their own homes or in one of the charity's hospices.

In spring, when the daffodils bloom, the children have fun painting their pots before taking them home to someone they care about in return for a small donation to help fund Marie Curie Nurses.

Free detailed lesson plans supporting Key Stages 1 and 2 of the National Curriculum as well as activity resources for youth groups are available to download from the website.

Teachers need to register by October 2 at www.mariecurie.org.uk/minipotsofcare or by calling 08700 340 040.

Amanda Mendzil, Marie Curie Cancer Care

Diana's living legacy

All too often we hear about the negative aspect of young people. Isn't it about time that we publicly applauded their commitment and through this empowered them to improve the society in which we all live?

As we remember Princess Diana on the anniversary of her death (August 31), it is heartening to know a growing force of young people continue to bring a shining light to other people's lives as a living legacy to her.

The Diana Award is a unique lifetime honour presented to young people who invest a huge amount of energy to improve the lives of others. We are passionate about young people and through our development programme harness their compassion and commitment so they fulfil their aspirations.

For young people this award is truly life-changing as they don't seek reward for the work they do and for many it may be the only recognition they receive. During our 10th anniversary year, we welcome nominations from across the UK. Nominate online – www.diana-award.org.uk – for one of our three awards: the main Diana Award for individuals; the Diana Anti-Bullying Award; and the Diana Certificate of Excellence.

Awardholders contribute to society for life. By making a nomination you'll be investing in young people and encouraging them to create a society in which we would all like to live. We know Princess Diana would have been proud of their achievements.

Maggie Turner, chief executive, Diana Award

Letters continued from page 29

Too quick to condemn

I'm afraid Graham Minty's letter about speed cameras lost all credibility when he went into a fantasy world of how he imagines things to be, rather than deal in facts.

If he'd read my many letters on the subject, he would know I am 64 years old, keep to speed limits and have a clean licence. He would also know I have supplied a mass of information on the propaganda he believes about cameras.

Showing no mercy to drivers going a few miles an hour over an arbitrary speed limit hasn't reduced deaths. And the cameras seem to miss the boy racers, sometimes in stolen cars, whose usual punishment is to end up in a coffin, taking innocent people with them.

There's no substitute for the proper policing of our roads, proper justice and the removal of those unfit to drive.

But that will never happen, because it's all about money. Every day I see drivers smoking, eating, talking on mobiles, trying to read maps, not paying attention, overtaking dangerously – behaviour that causes 94 per cent of crashes, but Mr Minty seems to prefer spending millions on metal muggers to catch the six per cent. No wonder politicians treat us as ripe for the picking if they can get so many to believe cameras are the answer.

Phil Granger, West Malling

Make your vote count

May I remind readers to keep an eye out for the electoral registration forms local authorities are now sending to households.

With a General Election coming, now is the

time to make sure that you complete the form. Remember – you can't vote if you're not on the register, even if you do pay council tax or have voted before. It's also worth thinking about if you can get to a polling station to vote, or whether to apply in advance for a postal vote or a proxy vote (where someone you trust votes on your behalf).

Find out at the independent elections watchdog's website: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk. Make sure nothing stops you from having your say.

Peter Wardle, chief executive, Electoral Commission

Humble pie, Mr Benn?

Defra secretary Hilary Benn recently talked about the UK becoming more self-sufficient in food production and stated: "It's about people eating more seasonally."

Disappointing, therefore, that the Government doesn't practise what it preaches. As part of its Rural Manifesto campaign to promote British farmers and producers, the Countryside Alliance wrote to the main government departments asking how much of the produce they serve is British.

The answers would make Mr Benn blush. The Foreign Office said "no detailed breakdown exists of individual residences" and the Cabinet Office, which runs Number 10, said: "There is no information on whether the proportion of food procured in the past 12 months was domestically produced."

Only the Treasury scored well and sources a high proportion of UK produce. This is simply not good enough. If the Government is telling us all to eat British food, it should be leading by example. Talking about it is all very well but you can easily be found out, as Prime Minister Gordon Brown has been, by



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Food safety system attracts investors

AN INNOVATIVE spin-out company from a Kent university has attracted more than £659,000 in new investment.

The cash will go towards developing an invention that detects low-level toxic chemicals in food and new funders include private investors and the South East Seed Fund.

Prof Ray Coker, a food safety expert at the University of Greenwich's Natural Resources Institute at the Medway campus, came up with the Toximent T System. It is an affordable, user-friendly and portable instrument that enables food producers to perform quality tests without the expense of using a laboratory.

■ KENT is home to the best school of pharmacy in the country, according to this year's National Student Survey.

The school, part of the University of Kent, was rated the best in the country for overall course satisfaction, scoring 97 per cent.

Vice-chancellor Prof Julia Goodfellow said: "We're delighted Medway School of Pharmacy has been rated the best and that the university continues to deliver one of the best student experiences in the country."

The university, which has campuses in Medway and Canterbury, was ranked 12th for student satisfaction in the Sunday Times University Guide earlier this year.

Gateway cash training boost in Thameside

EXTRA funding of £100,000 for an initiative in north Kent will create more training opportunities, *writes Jenna Pudelek.*

The money will mean that at least 40 adults aged 19 and over from the Dartford and Gravesend areas will be able to do NVQs at levels two and three, gaining qualifications that will improve their earning potential.

Sally Clarke, of Employ Kent Thameside, said the initiative that will receive the extra funds from the Kent Thameside Economic Board. She said: "We are delighted.

"It's so difficult to attract funding for this group to train to level three, and qualifications are essential to ensure people are able to take up the opportunities coming to the area as a result of the regeneration."

The aim is for the courses to benefit regeneration projects and they will cover subjects including business and administration, finance, IT and construction.

The regeneration of Kent Thameside, which covers Dartford, Gravesend and Ebbsfleet, is expected to create 50,000 jobs.

Anne Knight, partnership director of the Kent Thameside Regeneration Partnership, said: "Employ Kent Thameside is working

hard to improve the skill set and employability of local people.

"Our partners are keen to support training programmes to both increase the number of local people getting the jobs they want, and to improve the skills of their own employees."

Employ Kent Thameside is part funded by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda) and provides business training, job brokerage and training brokerage.

Northfleet-based business Britannia Refined Metals, which employs 162 people, has also contributed £10,000 towards NVQ level three training in the area.

Over the last three years, 850 people have been trained and more than 100 businesses have benefited from the Employ Thameside initiative, which is a partnership between Job Centre Plus, North West Kent College and Connexions.

The new jobs stem from the 25,000 homes planned to be built in the area over the next 25 years as part of the Thames Gateway project. Visit www.kent-thameside.co.uk for more information.

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Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health & Social Care (HND and BA courses)	SIHE/HSC
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	
<i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.</i>	
Supply Lecturers Higher Education Animal Science (HND & BSc courses)	SIHE/IAS
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	
<i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of Animal Psychology, Microbiology, Anatomy and Histology is required. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.</i>	
Supply Lecturers Higher Education to teach FD Moving Image Production and BA (Hons) TV Production and Moving Image Cultures	SIHE/MI
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	
<i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant area of Moving Image Production and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. Specialist knowledge of multi camera TV studio recording, multi camera location recording and post production using Avid/ Final Cut Pro is required for applied work. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level.</i>	
Supply Lecturer Higher Education Teacher Education	SIHE/TE
Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	
<i>You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject, a recognised Teaching Qualification and be conversant with the deliver of PTLLS, CTLLS, DTLLS and related Teacher Education programmes.</i>	
Caretaker	09/55
37 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum	
Supply Recreation Assistants	S/RA
Various hours available, salary starting at £15,312 pro rata per annum	
Lecturer Forensic Science	09/14
18.5 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum	

The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Sports Hall & Gym
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Close to City Centre
- Staff Discount Scheme



CLICK
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk/job-vacancies



CALL
01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone
is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

ICT Technical I.L.T Support Engineer Ref: P0653

Salary: £18,433 - £23,640 per annum

We are looking to recruit an organized and hard working individual to support the ICT department in developing the College's Virtual Learning Environment (Moodle). The successful candidate should have knowledge within this field and have an understanding of VLE's. The ability to work with a range of software packages including PHP in a Microsoft Windows environment, as well as being able to communicate at various technical levels is essential.

Closing date: Friday 18 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer



JobsforKent.co.uk

The smart way to find a job in the County



MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone
is seeking to appoint an outstanding individual in the following area:

Lecturer in Motor Vehicle Ref: P0649

Salary: £25,895 - £29,622 per annum

We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and dynamic individual to teach on a range of Motor Vehicle courses. The successful candidate will have proven knowledge and experience within the Motor Vehicle Engineering Industry. MidKent College's highly successful Motor Vehicle department is looking for an interactive team member with strong communication skills. The ideal candidate will hold a HNC or degree in a related field and either possess or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. We are particularly interested in an individual that has the passion to motivate our learners within their chosen subject.

For an informal discussion about this role please call Simon Foot, Head of School on 01622 625864.

Closing date: Friday 26 September 2009

MidKent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI, or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau check in accordance with the College procedure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the HR department on 01634 383102 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

MidKent College is an equal opportunities employer





Career Opportunities

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer



Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success.

Trainer Demonstrator Construction

18.5 hours per week. 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum

07/07

Lecturer Construction

18.5 hours per week, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum

09/48

The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th Sept 2009 at 12 noon.

For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office quoting the above reference.

Staff benefits include:

- Pension & Life Assurance Scheme
- Generous Holiday Allowance
- Proximity to main bus & train stations
- Close to Town Centre



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24-7

JobsforKent.co.uk

To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Accountancy

Finance Office Assistant

Kent
Salary: £14,891 - £16,663 (PAY AWARD PENDING) • 37 HOURS PER WEEK
Closing Date: Wednesday 2 September 2009
KCA (UK) is an expanding and vibrant organisation providing a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services in the drug, alcohol and mental health sectors. As part of our busy finance team, you will assist in the operation and maintenance of the purchase ledger, sales ledger and payroll. You will also provide back-up support for team members as required. Training will be provided and there are excellent opportunities for career progression. We are willing to support the right candidate to attain a relevant professional qualification. You will need to have good keyboard skills, be numerate and fully computer literate. Previous experience of working in a finance office and knowledge of Microsoft Office and Dynamics Great Plains is desirable but not essential. In addition, you will need to be able to respond to people in a professional manner and have good communication skills. For an informal discussion regarding the role, please contact Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager on 01795 590795. Application forms and job descriptions can be downloaded from www.kca.org.uk or call 01795 590635. Interview date: Friday 11 September 2009. KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from

people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse. Charity No: 292824.
To apply/more information:
Ann Colyer, Finance Office Manager, KCA (UK)
Quoting Job Ref: 592
Tel: 01795 590795
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Administration, Secretarial, PA

Outreach Coordinator/Admin Assistant

Margate
Salary: £16-17K
Closing Date: Tuesday 15th September
Outreach Coordinator/Admin Assistant (£16-17K) For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com or email admin@theatroyalmargate.com
Deadline for applications - Tuesday 15th September Interviews - w/c 21st September 2009
Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information:
Theatre Royal
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 293397
Email: admin@theatroyalmargate.com

Apprentice in Office Administration

Margate
Salary: TBA
Boys & Maughan, a Legal500 firm and Thanet's largest & oldest legal practice, have a vacancy for an Apprentice in Office Administration. We are looking for an Apprentice to undertake an NVQ Level 2 in Office Administration. You will have a responsible outlook, be well presented, have an eagerness to learn and be well organised. GCSE grade C or above in both English and Maths are a minimum requirement, as well as excellent keyboard and data entry skills. The ability to type would be an advantage. Based in Margate with occasional work in our other branches across Thanet, this is an excellent opportunity for the right candidate to join a Lexcel

accredited Legal500 law firm. Applicants should send a comprehensive CV along with a hand-written covering letter to: Kerry Curson, HR Officer, Boys & Maughan, India House, Margate, CT9 1PZ.
To apply/more information:
Boys & Maughan
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Administration Manager

Ramsgate
Salary: £20,305 - £26,274 pa pro rata
Closing Date: 14th September 2009.
To apply/more information:
Childrens Society
Quoting Job Ref: S01536/KOS
Tel: 0121 362 8633
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Catering, Hospitality

Experienced Second Chef

Tonbridge
Salary: TBA
The Spotted Dog, Penhurst Requires Experienced Second Chef Full time, includes weekend and evening shifts. Excellent rates of pay. Own transport essential due to location. Please contact Carl Hood 01892 870253.
To apply/more information:
Spotted Dog
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01892 870253
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Part-time cook

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require Part-time cook Weekends - 07:00am-18:30pm and 3 afternoons a week - 14:30pm-18:30pm. 2 x Part-time laundry people. Hours 08:00am-14:00pm. 24 hours 1 week and 18 hours the next. For more information. Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527.
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Construction, Architecture, Surveyors

CPCS HOIST and FORKLIFT

Kent
Salary: TBA
CPCS HOIST & FORKLIFT DRIVERS, CSCS LABOURERS CT10 020 8469 3456
To apply/more information:
Site Masters Plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8469 3456
Email: reception@sitmasters.plc.uk

LABOURERS

Kent
Salary: TBA
CPCS HOIST & FORKLIFT DRIVERS, CSCS LABOURERS CT10 020 8469 3456
To apply/more information:
Site Masters Plc
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 020 8469 3456
Email: reception@sitmasters.plc.uk

Surveyor/Senior Surveyor

Gravesend
Salary: Circa £22,000 - £28,500
Closing Date: 06 September 2009
To apply/more information:
Gravesend Borough Council
Quoting Job Ref: SS/MM
Tel: 01474 33 70 00
Email: customer.services@gravesend.gov.uk

Customer Service, Call Centre

Call centre staff

Medway
Salary: TBA
Full and Part-time Call centre staff, Rochester. Please send your CV to Ward & Partners, 8 Market Place, Faversham, Kent ME13 7AG or e-mail careers@arunestates.co.uk.

To apply/more information:
Ward & Partners
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email: careers@arunestates.co.uk

SALES AGENTS

Folkestone
Salary: £16k - £18k+ OTE
Closing Date: 11 September 2009
To apply/more information:
Saga
Quoting Job Ref: SVS325/KOS
Tel: 01303 774888
Email: human.resources@saga.co.uk

Domestic

2 x Part-time laundry people

Canterbury
Salary: TBA
Littlebourne House Care Home Require Part-time cook Weekends - 07:00am-18:30pm and 3 afternoons a week - 14:30pm-18:30pm. 2 x Part-time laundry people. Hours 08:00am-14:00pm. 24 hours 1 week and 18 hours the next. For more information. Please call - Maralyn on Tel: 01227 721527
To apply/more information:
Littlebourne House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01227 721527
Email: applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Education, Teacher, School

Section Manager Construction Craft

Ashford
Salary: 37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. You

will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. The closing date for the above post is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 08/12
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Section Manager Fine Arts, Crafts and Design

Canterbury
Salary: 37 hrs per week, salary starting at £34,366 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/33
Tel: 01227 811282
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturers Health and Social Care

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to

nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. The closing date for the above post is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: s/s
Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturers Animal Care and Land Based Studies

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available,
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/AC
Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

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To advertise in this section or online
01303 817040

Supply Lecturers Public Services

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. The closing date for the above post is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme.
To apply/more information:
Human Resources Office
Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/PS
Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone)
Email: applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health and Social Care to teach on HND and BA (Hons) courses.

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 - £26,759 pro rata per annum



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Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
Canterbury College is an equal opportunities employer Canterbury College is a Further and Higher Education College in the heart of Kent. Our goal is to be one of the best FE Colleges in England by 2010. We have 9,000 students across 300 courses and enjoy an enviable reputation as a great place to learn. Our brand new £50M Campus is also home to nearly 800 staff and we have some great career opportunities which may be right for you. You will have a minimum of a good first degree in a relevant subject area and demonstrate a willingness to contribute to the development of the HE programmes. For theory and related practice you should be able to offer ongoing support and guidance with project work and student dissertations to degree level. For an information pack please visit

www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/TE Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Health and Social Care to teach on HND and BA (Hons) courses

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/AS Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturers Higher Education to teach FD Moving Image Production and BA (Hons) TV Production and Moving Image Cultures

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/TE Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Supply Lecturer Higher Education Teacher Education

Canterbury
Salary: Various hours available, salary range £19,344 – £26,759 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
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pack please visit
www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Sports Hall & Gym • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Generous Holiday Allowance • Close to City Centre • Staff Discount Scheme
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: S/HE/TE Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Caretaker

Canterbury
Salary: 37 hours per week, salary starting at £15,312 per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Canterbury College
Quoting Job Ref: 09/55 Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Trainer Demonstrator Construction

Sheerness
Salary: 18.5 hours per week, 38 weeks term time. Salary starting at £19,248 pro rata per annum
Closing Date: Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon

Sheppey College is an equal opportunities employer Sheppey College is a satellite of Canterbury College and has been open since 1996. We offer a variety of courses in a modern and friendly learning environment and enjoy excellent rates of success. The closing date for the above posts is Friday 11th September 2009 at 12 noon. For an information pack please visit www.canterburycollege.ac.uk or call the Human Resources Office on 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) quoting the above reference. Staff benefits include: • Pension & Life Assurance Scheme • Generous Holiday Allowance • Proximity to main bus & train stations • Close to Town Centre.
To apply/more information: Human Resources Office Sheppey College
Quoting Job Ref: 07/07 Tel: 01227 811282 (24 hr answerphone) Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Information Tech, Internet, Telecoms

Trainee

Dover
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Dealec
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Management, Senior Positions

Audience Development and Marketing Manager

Margate
Salary: £26-28K
Closing Date: Tuesday 15th September
Audience Development & Marketing Manager (£26-28K). For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com or email admin@theatroyalmargate.com
Deadline for applications - Tuesday 15th September Interviews - w/c 21st September 2009
Margate Theatre Royal Trust is a registered charity (279015) and aims to be an equal opportunities employer.
To apply/more information: Theatre Royal
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01843 293397
Email admin@theatroyalmargate.com

AN INNOVATIVE CHALLENGE

West Malling
Salary: c£65,000 pa - funded until 31 March 2012
Closing Date: 7 September 2009
• Do you want to work with some of the most exciting businesses in the South East? • Are you an inspirational leader with a passion for innovation? • Have you been directly involved in growing a business? We are seeking an experienced Executive Director with strong management qualities to head up and drive forward an initiative supporting high growth businesses through a not-for-profit organisation based in, and responsible for, the Kent and Medway region. A strategic thinker with demonstrable leadership qualities and excellent communication skills, you will be required to work at a strategic level with partner institutions and regional organisations to build local business support delivery networks for pioneering companies that are likely to have a major impact on the growth of the South East economy. For an informal discussion on this newly-created full-time post, please contact: Bob Jones, Business Support Kent, Telephone 01732 878028 Application packs are available from: Karen Fitzgerald, Karen.fitzgerald@businesslinkkent.co.uk. Telephone 01732 878002.
To apply/more information: Karen Fitzgerald, Business Link Kent Community Interest Company
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01732 878002
Email Karen.fitzgerald@businesslinkkent.co.uk

This is an ideal opportunity for an experienced Car Sales Executive to take their career onwards within our Hyundai, Dodge, Chrysler and Jeep operations at Maidstone. The candidate would ideally already be working in a motor dealership environment or possess previous knowledge. You also need to be organised and be an articulate team player capable of converting enquiries into sales and delivering exceptional levels of customer service for this fast growing and forward thinking marque. In return, we offer an excellent salary and commission package. For more information, please send your CV F.A.O. Mark Wood, Dealer Principal, 1-17 The Broadway Maidstone, Kent ME16 80X Whitehouse Maidstone.
To apply/more information: Whitehouse Jeep
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Email mark.wood@whitehousegroup.co.uk

Nursing, Medicine, Care Work

Assistant Manager

Folkestone
Salary: TBA
Required For Residential Care Home In Folkestone We are looking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed person. Must have Minimum NVQ Level 3 Qualification, And Experience in the role above. Please call Miss Julia Carter (Home Manager) on 01303 254019. Subject to satisfactory CRB Check.
To apply/more information: Cumbria House Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 254019
Email applications@kosmedia.co.uk

Senior and Day Carers

Deal
Salary: TBA
Friendly, small care home requires senior and day carers 30 hours plus per week. Experience is essential, fluency in English is required. Please ring 01304 372312 for an informal chat with the manager to arrange an interview.
To apply/more information: Rosehurst Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 372312
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Saturday Night Carer

Romney Marsh
Salary: TBA
BETHANY LODGE CARE HOME Eastbridge Road, Dymchurch Requires A Saturday Night Carer, 8pm - 8am To join our team of professionals caring for young people with disabilities Rewarding and friendly environment, Enhanced rates for NVQ Tel: 01303 872289 for more information And application form All applicants will be required to complete a criminal records bureau check.
To apply/more information: Bethany Lodge/Bethany House
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01303 872289
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Night Care Assistant

Deal
Salary: TBA
Residential Care home for the elderly in Deal requires a Night Care Assistant, 2 set nights per week at 19 hours and Afternoon Care Assistant, 3-7pm daily. Please call the Manager. Tel: 01304 360960.
To apply/more information: Bradfields Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 360960
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Afternoon Care Assistant

Deal
Salary: TBA
To apply/more information: Bradfields Residential Home
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 01304 360960
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Community Support Worker

Dover
Salary: £12856.61 – £17421.40
Closing Date: 25/09/09
To apply/more information: Lynda Salisbury
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0003
Tel: 01843224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Community Support Worker

Thanet
Salary: £12856.61 – £17421.40
Closing Date: 25/09/09
To apply/more information: Lynda Salisbury
East Kent Mencap
Quoting Job Ref: CSW0003
Tel: 01843224482
Email Lynda.Salisbury@eastkentmencap.co.uk

Public Sector, Social Services

FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY

Tunbridge Wells

Salary: TBA
We require a Qualified Social worker (or working towards) to manage and develop a small up and coming fostering agency based in SE Kent. Previous fostering management not required but an advantage. This position is considered ideal for someone who would like the opportunity to develop their skills whilst bringing their experience and ideas to expand and develop the business. The ideal candidate will have experience working with children and families and preferably have worked within the fostering sector and/or fostered themselves. For an informal chat and for further information, please contact Steve Richmond on 07710 145802 and 01892 740886 email: sr@benecareltd.co.uk.
To apply/more information: Steve Richmond
Bene Care
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07710 145802 and 01892 740886
Email sr@benecareltd.co.uk

Retail, Wholesale, Sales

Florist

Isle of Sheppey
Salary: TBA
Part Time Florist Required Experience Necessary Wages Negotiable. To apply call Philippa on 07971 159078 Location: Isle Craft Flowers 278 Minister Road, Minister-on-Sea, Sheerness, Kent ME12 3LR.
To apply/more information: Sharrock Insurance Service
Quoting Job Ref: kos
Tel: 07971 159078
Email applications@jobsforkent.co.uk

Duty Front of House Manager

Margate
Salary: £16K pro rata
Closing Date: Tuesday 15th September
P/T Duty Front of House Manager (£16K pro rata) For application packs please call 01843 293397, see our website www.theatroyalmargate.com or email admin@theatroyalmargate.com
Deadline for applications - Tuesday 15th September Interviews - w/c 21st September 2009
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PUBLIC NOTICES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-

Name of Premises: **Kings Arms Hotel, Market Square, Westerham**

Applicant: **Georgina Lowe**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.

Giles Adey
Head of Registration
First Floor, Invicta House
Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX



PUBLIC NOTICE

A building certified for worship named Siri Guru Darbar Gurudwara, 2nd Floor, Guru Nanak Marg, Gravesend in the registration district of Kent, in the Non-Metropolitan County/Metropolitan County/London Borough of Kent, was on 26 June 2009 registered for solemnising marriages therein pursuant to section 41 of the Marriage Act 1949 as amended by Section 1 (1) of the Marriages Acts Amendment Act, 1958.

Superintendent Registrar

30 June 2009

TONBRIDGE & MALLING BOROUGH COUNCIL

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING ACTS - NOTICES OF APPLICATIONS

The following applications have been submitted to the Council and are being advertised for the reason(s) given in each case.

TM/09/01103/LB - **Rear Of 69 High Street West Malling Kent ME19 6NA** - Mr Jetha is applying for Listed Building Application: Internal alterations to create en suite bathroom to serve flat 2 (first floor level). Reason: CA LB

TM/09/01967/FL - **Snodland Bowls Club High Street Snodland Kent** - Ward Homes are applying for demolition of existing bowls club and erection of 14 no. dwellings with associated parking and landscaping. Reason: CA

TM/09/02032/LB - **The Byre Lunsford Farm 476 Lunsford Lane Larkfield Aylesford Kent ME20 6JA** - Mr John Eden-Green is applying for alterations to 3 no existing external doors, replacement of 2 no external doors with windows and relocation/removal of 2 no gas boiler flue. Reason: LB

TM/09/01772/FL - **Church Cottage Plaxtol Lane Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent TN15 0QB** - Mr Simon Gandon is applying for oil tank and associated screening. Reason: CA LB HH

TM/09/01962/LB - **Winfield Farm Long Mill Lane Plaxtol Sevenoaks Kent TN15 8QA** - Mr W G Chaplin is applying for Listed Building Application: Conversion of cattle barn/hop building to dwelling, new access, change of use of land to residential and demolition of lean-to structures. Reason: LB

Reasons for the case being publicised:

LB Application relates to/affects a Listed Building or its setting
CA Application is within/affects a Conservation Area
HH Householder application - As this is a householder application, in the event of an appeal against a refusal of planning permission, which is to be dealt with on the basis of representations in writing, any representations made about this application will be sent to the Secretary of State, and there will be no further opportunity to comment at appeal stage.

These applications are displayed on our website www.tmbc.gov.uk - click on the button "Online Planning" (then View Existing Applications and select Public Access). You can submit your comments by emailing to planning.applications@tmbc.gov.uk (please quote the application number by the date set out below). Please note that we will publish a copy of any representations received on the Council's website, including your name and address.

Copies of applications listed may be seen during office hours (8.30 am and 5.00 pm Monday to Friday). Any applications within Hadlow, Hildenborough and Tonbridge are available at Tonbridge Castle, Tonbridge. Other applications are available at the office of the Director of Planning, Transport & Leisure, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent, ME19 4LZ. Any representations should be made in writing quoting the application number by 20 September 2009.

David Hughes
Chief Executive
30 August 2009



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Highways - District of Canterbury

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MIDDLE WALL, WHITSTABLE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of the disconnection of the existing gas supply to Iceland, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Middle Wall, Whitstable between Island Wall and Waterloo Road on or after 14 September 2009 for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Via Waterloo Road and Island Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PILOTS FARM ROAD AND BROXHALL ROAD, LOWER HARDRES) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because of carriageway repairs, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Pilots Farm Road and Broxhall Road as described in columns 1&2 of the Schedul, on or after 15 September 2009 for an estimated period of 17 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be as shown in column 3 of the Schedule.

SCHEDULE

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative route	Programmed date
Phase 1			
Pilots Farm Road	Whole Length	Tapleys Hill, Pett Bottom Road and Broxhall Road	15 September 2009 for 6 days
Phase 2			
Broxhall Road	Whole Length	Pett Bottom Road, Tapleys Hill and Pilots Farm Road	23 September 2009 for 11 days

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (CHARLES STREET, HERNE BAY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Charles Street between Chapel Street and East Street on or after 1 September 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via East Street, Central Parade, Canterbury Road, High Street and North Street.

During the period of the works the following Orders are temporarily suspended as and when the appropriate signs are displayed.

1. The one way Order in North Street is temporarily reversed.
2. The one way Order in Charles Street is temporarily suspended between North Street and East Street to become two way.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (RECTORY LANE, BARHAM) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because gas mains replacement works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Rectory Lane, from Court Cottage to outside number 10 on or after 31 August 2009 for an estimated period of 6 Weeks or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Church Lane, Gravel Castle Road, Old Dover Road, and Rectory Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (GAS STREET, CANTERBURY) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because subsidence works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic along the whole length of Gas Street on or after 1 September 2009 for an estimated period of 3 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Castle Street, Rosemary Lane and Church Lane.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MARLEY LANE, KINGSTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway patching and haunching works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Marley Lane, Kingston between The Street and Turks Hill on or after 1 September 2009 for an estimated period of 12 days or until the works are complete.

The alternative route for through traffic will be:
Eastbound via Turks Hill, Covet Lane, Bonny Bush Hill and The Street.
Westbound via Westwood Road and Turks Hill.

Highways - Borough of Dartford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ROCHESTER WAY, DARTFORD) (CYCLE LANE) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1) and (2), 2(1) to (3), 3(2) and 4(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will have the following effect of introducing a cycle lane on both sides of the following lengths of road:-

ROCHESTER WAY, DARTFORD	On both sides, from the junction with Denton Road to the junction with Swan Lane, Dartford.	Cycle lane, available only to cycles
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Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Doubleday House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford ME20 7BU, Dartford Borough Council Offices, Civic Centre, Home Gardens, Dartford DA1 1DR and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 21 September 2009.

Highways - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE) (SPEED LIMITS) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 2) ORDER 2009

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will extend the existing 30 mph speed limit on Church Road, Downswood, Maidstone from a point in line with the southern boundary of St Nicholas's Church to the junction with Derrington Drive.

NB. This will encompass the length of road fronting St Nicholas's Church into the existing length of 30 mph speed limit in Church Road which extends to the junction with Derrington Drive and is a speed limit by virtue of street lighting.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford ME20 7BU and at Invicta House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Kent Highway Services, Double Day House, St Michaels Close, Aylesford. ME20 7BU by noon on Monday 21 September 2009.

Highways - District of Sevenoaks

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL SHOREHAM LANE, HALTSED (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic on Shoreham Lane, Halsted outside and opposite Widhurst Farm.

The Order will become effective on 1st September, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 1 week. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the route described above will be via: Station Road, Watercroft Road, Old London Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate connection works on behalf of EDF.

Highways - District of Shepway

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (PARK STREET, LYDD) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because electrical cabling works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Park Street, Lydd from the junction with Oak Lane to the junction with Green Way, outside and opposite Holmstone Cottage on 1 September 2009 for an estimated period of 1 week or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Oak Lane, High Street and Park Street.

Highways - District of Swale

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (WHARF WAY, SITTINGBOURNE) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting traffic on Wharf Way, Sittingbourne for its entire extent, on or after 31 August 2009, for an indefinite period. The closure is for reasons of safety to the public, now that the industrial estate formerly served by the road has been demolished.

There is no alternative route.

Highways - District of Thanet

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MANSTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway repair works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Various Roads, Manston as described in columns 1 and 2 of the schedule to this order on or after 14 September 2009 for an estimated period of 4 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic for each road described in column 1 of the schedule of this order is described in column 3 of that schedule. Only one road shall be closed at any one time.

The Schedule

Specified Road	Length of road affected	Alternative routes	Duration
Spratling Lane	The whole length	Manston Road, Preston Road and Spratling Street	14 September 2009 for 1 day
Spratling Street	Phase 1 - From New Haine Road to Spratling Street Farm Phase 2 - Spratling Street Farm to Preston Road	Phase 1 - Preston Road, Spratling Street and Spratling Lane Phase 2 - No alternative route access will be maintained for residents	15 September 2009 for 3 days

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MINNIS ROAD, BIRCHINGTON) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that because carriageway repairs works are proposed to be carried out, the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting traffic on Minnis Road, Birchington from Gore End Close to Galwey Avenue on or after 14 September 2009 for an estimated period of 2 days or until such works are complete. The Order will remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

The alternative route for through traffic will be via Grenham Bay Avenue, Seaview Road, Grenham Road, Lyell Road, Station Approach and Minnis Road.

Highways - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MOUNT PLEASANT, HILDENBOROUGH) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Mount Pleasant outside of number 25 on or after Tuesday 15th September 2009 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is for northbound traffic via B245 Tonbridge Road, Riding Lane, Mount Pleasant and for southbound traffic vice versa.

Scotia Gas Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for an essential gas service to be installed. Should you require any further information the contact is Alex McDonald on 01689 881 315.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2016 SEVEN MILE LANE, OFFHAM/MEREWORTH & COMP LANE, OFFHAM) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on the B2016 Seven Mile Lane, Offham/ Mereworth between the Wrotham Heath Golf Club entrance to Beech Reservoir and on Comp Lane, Offham from the junction with Seven Mile Lane to Mid Comp Cottages. The order will come into effect on the 7th September 2009 and remain in place for a period of up to eight weeks or until the works are completed. The closure of Comp Lane is to be in position for up to 5 days.

The alternative routes for Seven Mile Lane will be for northbound traffic via the A26 Tonbridge Road, A228 Malling Road, Kings Hill, Ashton Way, A20 London Road and southbound traffic vice versa. The alternative route for Comp Lane will be for westbound traffic via the B2016 Seven Mile Lane, A20 London Road, A25 Maidstone Road, Long Mill Lane, Comp Lane and for eastbound traffic vice versa.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for the laying of a new water main. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Sam Appleby on 01622 873976.

Highways - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (TUDELEY LANE, CAPEL) (PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2009 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Tudeley Lane approximately 70 metres either side of Hartlake Road on or after Monday 14th September 2009 for a period of up to 3 nights or until such works are completed.

The alternative route for the route described above is via Five Oak Green Road, A228 Maidstone Road, Pembury Northern By-Pass, Tonbridge Road, A21 Pembury Road, Vauxhall Lane, A26 Woodgate Way, Five Oak Green Road and vice versa depending on which section is closed.

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway resurfacing. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Simon Allsopp on 08458 247 800.

For further information, please contact Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways





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Skoda has last laugh with Yeti

INSIDE



Kuga revolution grows Page 42



Mini-MPV a used bargain Page 43



Civic diesel a star turn Pages 46-47

AFTER years of being the laughing stock of the motor industry, Skoda could be having the last laugh with its newest model.

By naming it the Yeti aka Abominable Snowman and inferring ruggedness in extreme conditions, the once maligned Czech marque has fashioned a neat riposte to those tired old Skoda gags.

During the Communist era when Skoda interiors made Blue Peter sticky back plastic/detergent bottle projects look like craftsmanship, the brand endured a barrage of barbs like:

"How do you double the value of a Skoda? Fill the petrol tank."

Or 'What do you call a Skoda with a sunroof? A skip.'

Oh, how everyone laughed...

But then came the fight back to credibility under VW ownership and perennial victories in customer satisfaction surveys – though many women still swear they wouldn't be seen dead in a Skoda.

Yes, Yeti will do handsomely for this no

By **STEVE LOADER**

doubt dependable compact 4x4, though it will also be sold in more affordable and economical front-wheel drive too, which should fit the bill – literally – for buyers who like funky chunky off-roader styling but can't justify the costs.

It arrives in showrooms on September 17 as Skoda's fifth distinct model line priced from a tempting £13,750 with air con as standard and up to £22,120 for the most luxurious 4x4 version.

Realistically, most people will go for level two or 'Yeti S' spec from £14,250, which is the start point for alloys as standard – and the car needs these to complement the styling. The two or four-wheel drive and VW twin-clutch automatic DSG options also come into play at that level too.

Its strength though is affordability against rivals; this is a whole new sector for Skoda and one unlikely to gather many current customers, who tend to be a discerning, but conservative bunch.

So the Yeti has to tough it out in a compact 4x4/SUV (sports utility vehicle) sector under pressure as consumers turn away from the perceived higher running costs.

That said, the Yeti should be cheap to run and strikes a neat balance between style and ruggedness, which could tempt Ford Focus class family hatchback buyers seeking something with more style and image.

It also has little to fear from the value for money Koreans at present; the closely related Hyundai Tucson and Kia Sportage look tired, though a new model waits in the wings.

Meanwhile, Toyota's RAV4 has gone upmarket and list prices for the Ford Kuga are scary – though a recent sales leap hints at major discounts on the quiet.

The Skoda's biggest rival though could be Toyota's Urban Cruiser or 'junior RAV' launched earlier this year, but the Czechs could soon be laughing at the opposition and how silly those old jokes now sound.



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09 58 VAUXHALL AGILA 1-2 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR BLUE 3000MILES	£9495
09 58 A CLASS 150 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SILVER 7000 MILES	£13995
09 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 ACTIVE AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR BLACK 2000 MILES	£8995
09 58 MEGANE 1-6 EXPRESSION ESTATE AUTO PAS BLACK 600 MILES	£9995
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09 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC PLUS BLUE METALLIC 2000 MILES	£10495
09 58 FORD FUSION 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE SILVER METALLIC 6000 MILES	£9995
09 58 PEUGEOT 107 2-TRONIC 3DR AUTO PAS RED 1400 MILES	£7995
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09 58 NEW CORSA 1-2 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR ICE BLUE 4000 MILES	£8995
09 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DOOR BLACK 4000 MILES	£8995
09 58 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE SILVER 7000 MILES	£8995
09 58 NEW MODEL MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 500 MILES	£9995
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09 58 CHEVROLET AVEO LT AUTO PAS AIR/C TURQUOISE 1900 MILES	£7995
09 58 SUZUKI SX4 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS GREY 7000 MILES	£8995
09 58 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR CAFFEE 6000 MILES	£10995
09 58 NISSAN NOTE TEKNA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR CAFFEE 2000 MILES	£10995
09 58 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 1800 MILES	£9995
09 58 NISSAN NOTE ASENTA 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 3000 MILES	£9995
09 58 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 750 MILES	£9495
09 58 VAUXHALL AGILA 1-2 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 4000M	£9495
09 58 TOYOTA AURIS TR AUTO PAS AIR/C DIESEL 5 DR GREY 4000 MILES	£11995
09 58 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR BLUE 6000 MILES	£9995
09 08 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000MILES	£12995
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08 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS FLAME 6000 MILES	£13495
07 57 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 CONVERT AUTO PAS BLUE 5000 MILES	£13495
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05 55 MERCEDES 200 CLK COMPRESSOR AUTO SILVER 15000 MILES	£15995

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07 57 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 PLUS AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SEA GREY 5000 MILES	£8995
07 57 FIESTA STYLE 1-6 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 19000 MILES	£7995
07 07 FUSION ZETEC 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR GREEN 4000 MILES	£8495
06 56 FUSION 16 CLIMATE ZETEC AUTO PAS ALLOYS TONIC 10000MILES	£6995
06 06 FIESTA ZETEC 1-4 CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR/C BLUE 13000 MILES	£6995

FORD FOCUS

08 08 FOCUS 1-6 TITANIUM AUTO PAS 5 DR ESTATE SILVER 4000MILES	£12995
08 08 NEW FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 4000 MILES	£11495
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C MOONDUST SILVER 7000 MILES	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 STYLE AUTO PAS AIR/C PANTHER BLACK 8000 MILES	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC 5DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/CALLOYS BLACK 10000 MILES	£8995
07 57 FOCUS 16 ZETEC 3DOOR AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SEA GREY 13000 MILES	£8995
07 07 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA 5 DR AUTO PAS SEA GREY AIR 17000 MILES	£9995
06 56 FOCUS 2-0 GHIA ESTATE CAR AUTO PAS STRATOS SILVER 22000MILES	£8995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C TANGO RED 9000 MILES	£7995
06 56 FORD FOCUS GHIA AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C SEA GREY 13000 MILES	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS TONIC BLUE 13000 MILES	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PASAIR OCEAN BLUE 8000 MILES	£7995
06 56 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C STEEL GREY 12000 MILES	£7995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR/C GREEN 13000 MILES	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 LX HATCH AUTO PAS AIR/C STRATOS SILVER 10000 MILES	£6995
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 GHIA AUTO PAS 4 DR ALLOYS SILVER 21000 MILES	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS SILVER18000MLS	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE ESTATE AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS 11000MLS	£7495
06 06 FOCUS 1-6 ZETEC CLIMATE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE TONIC16000MLS	£7495

MONDEO

06 06 MONDEO 2-0 ZETEC AUTO PAS ESTATE TONIC BLUE 26000 MILES	£7995
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CORSA

07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 7000 MILES	£8995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 4000 MILES	£8995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 3DR ULTRA BLUE15000 MILES	£7995
07 57 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C STAR SILVER 1800 MILES	£8995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 CLUB AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 19000 MILES	£7995
07 07 NEW CORSA 1-4 SX AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 2000MILES	£8995
07 56 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 9000 MILES	£7995
07 56 CORSA 1-2 LIFE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 5000 MILES	£7995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 23000 MILES	£6495
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 5 DR AUTO PAS SILVER 11000 MILES	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-4 DESIGN 3 DR AUTO PAS ULTRA BLUE 2000MILES	£6995
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 9000 MILES	£5495
06 06 CORSA 1-0 LIFE ECO AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 24000 MILES	£5495
05 05 CORSA 1-0 LIFE AUTO PAS 5DR STAR SILVER 21000 MILES	£4995
05 05 CORSA 1-0 ECO 3 DR AUTO PAS WHITE 25000 MILES	£4495
03 03 CORSA 1-0 5 DR AUTO PAS GREEN METALLIC JUST 3000 MILES	£3995

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08 08 KIA RIO 1-4 GS 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES	£7995
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08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES	£9995
08 08 CITROEN C3 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5DR AIR/C BLUE 8000 MILES	£9995
06 06 CITROEN PICASSO EXCLUSIVE AUTO NIGHT BLUE 17000 MILES	£7495

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07 57 MAZDA 6 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER BLUE 17000 MILES	£9995
06 06 MAZDA 3 TS AUTO PAS ALLOYS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 17000 MILES	£8495

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06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 16000 MILES	£5995
06 06 SUZUKI IGNIS 1-5 GL 5 DR AUTO PAS CATS EYES BLUE 15000 MILES	£5995

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06 06 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE AUTO PAS AIR/C ALLOYS BLACK 16000 MILES	£8495
06 55 HONDA JAZZ 1-4 SE SPORT AUTO PAS AIR ALLOYS SILVER16000MILES	£8495
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07 57 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES	£6495
07 07 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS MET BLUE 5000 MILES	£5995
06 56 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI AUTO PAS 5DR MET SILVER 8000 MILES	£7495
06 06 HYUNDAI MATRIX 1-6 GSI AUTO PAS 5DR MET ICE GREEN 7000 MILES	£5995
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS ELECTRIC BLUE 7000 MILES	£5495
06 06 HYUNDAI AMICA 1-1 CDX 5 DR AUTO PAS BLUE 19000 MILES	£5295

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08 08 TOYOTA YARIS T3 AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DR ALLOYS BLACK 8000 MILES	£9495
07 57 AYGO 1-0 PLUS 3DR AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES	£7495
06 56 AVENSIS T3-X 1-8 AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5DR CARLO BLUE 9000 MILES	£10995
06 56 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C MET SILVER 15000 MILES	£9995
06 06 COROLLA 1-6 T3 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C IXION BLUE 12000 MILES	£8995
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06 06 NISSAN MICRA 1-2 INITIA 3 DR AUTO PAS PACIFIC BLUE 11000 MILES	£6495
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08 58 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES	£10495
08 08 SKODA ROOMSTER 2 AUTO PAS AIR/C CHAMPAGNE 5000 MILES	£9995

MG ROVER

03 03 ROVER 45 IMPRESSION AUTO PAS AIR/C NIGHTFIRE RED 43000 MILES	£3495
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MINI

05 55 MINI COOPER 1-6 3DR AUTO OLD ENGLISH WHITE 37000 MILES	£8495
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08 08 CHEVROLET LACETTI EST 1-8 SX SW AUTO PAS 5 DR BLUE 4000M	£6995
08 57 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLUE 5DR 13000 MILES	£5695
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS SILVER 2000 MILES	£5295
06 56 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS OCEAN BLUE 10000 MILES	£5495
06 56 CHEVROLET LACETTI 1-6 SX AUTO PAS 5 DR SILVER 18000MILES	£4995
06 06 CHEVROLET MATIZ 8-0 SE AUTO PAS BLACK 25000 MILES	£4295

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08 08 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 3 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C CORNFLOWER4000 MILES	£9495
07 07 VW POLO 1-4 MATCH 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 7000 MILES	£8995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 18000 MILES	£9995
06 56 VW GOLF 1-6 SE 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C GREY METALLIC 10000 MILES	£10995
06 06 VW GOLF 1-6 S 5 DR AUTO PAS AIR/C BLUE 11000 MILES	£9995
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07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ESTATE METRO BLUE 14000 MILES	£8995
08 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5 DOOR SILVER 11000 MILES	£7995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE STAR SILVER 17000 MILES	£8995
07 57 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR 5 DOOR TURQUOISE UNDER 300 MILES	£8495
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07 07 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C ESTATE PANACOTTA 6000 MILES	£7495
07 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C STAR SILVER 17000 MILES	£6495
06 56 ASTRA 18 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR PANACOTTA 17000MILES	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR STAR SILVER 8000 MILES	£6995
06 56 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS 5 DOOR SILVER 12000 MILES	£7995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 15000 MILES	£7495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 DESIGN AUTO PAS ALLOYS ESTATE SILVER 18000 MILES	£6995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 14000 MILES	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 12000 MILES	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR ULTRA BLUE 20000 MILES	£6495
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR SILVER 13000 MILES	£6695
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB AUTO 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR BLACK 12000 MILES	£6695
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C ULTRA BLUE 11000 MILES	£6495
01 Y ASTRA 1-8 CDX AUTO PAS ESTATE CAR BLUE 36000 MILES	£3695

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07 07 ZAFIRA 1-8 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 6000 MILES	£8995
07 56 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR BLUE 10000 MILES	£6995
06 06 MERIVA 1-6 LIFE AUTO PAS AIR/C 5DR SILVER 12000 MILES	£6995
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08 08 GRAND SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIC 5DR AUTO PAS BLACK 2000 MILES	£11995
08 08 RENAULT CLIO 1-6 EXPRESSION 3DR AUTO PAS 2000 MILES	£8995
08 08 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GREY 17000 MILES	£10995
07 57 RENAULT MODUS INITIALE 1-6 AUTO PAS LEATHER 9000 MILES	£8995
07 57 SCENIC 1-6 DYNAMIC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR GOLD 16000 MILES	£8995
07 07 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C GOLD 10000 MILES	£9495
07 07 MEGANE 1-6 DYNAMIC 5DR AUTO PAS AIR SILVER 16000 MILES	£7995
07 07 KANGOO EXPRESSION 1-6 AUTO PAS MET RED 17000 MILES	£6995
06 56 LAGUNA 2-0 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AIR/C SILVER 17000 MILES	£6995
06 06 RENAULT MODUS 1-6 PRIVILEGE AUTO PAS FLAME RED 7000 MILES	£6995
06 06 RENAULT MODUS 1-6 DYNAMIC AUTO PAS AQUA 6000 MILES	£6995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLACK 11000 MILES	£7495
06 06 SCENIC PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS AIR/C BLACK 17000 MILES	£7995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE MET 16000 MILES	£7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE MET 15000 MILES	£7495
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C SILVER 20000 MILES	£6995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C GOLD 7000 MILES	£7995
06 06 SCENIC DYNAMIC 16 AUTO PAS 5 DR AIR/C BLUE MET 12000 MILES	£7495
06 06 MEGANE PRIVILEGE 1-6 AUTO PAS ESTATE FLAME RED 8000 MILES	£7995

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03 53 A140 CLASSIC SE AUTO PAS AIR/C COSMOS GREY 26000 MILES	£5995
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06 06 PEUGEOT 307 S SW ESTATE AUTO PAS 5DR AIR SILVER 12000 MILES	£7495
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07 57 CITROEN C2 AIRPLAY 1-1 3DR 5 SPD SILVER 3000 MILES	£5995
06 06 PEUGEOT 107 1-0 URBAN 3DR MANUAL BLUE METALLIC 14000 MILES	£5995
06 06 ASTRA 1-8 CLUB 5 SPEED 5DR ESTATE PAS AIR RED 36000 MILES	£6495
05 05 FIAT CUPRA 1-4 SX 5 DR 5 SPEED PAS AIR DIABLO RED 15000 MILES	£5495
05 05 CITROEN C2 AIRPLAY 1-1 3DR 5 SPD SILVER 3000 MILES	£5995
03 03 CITROEN C2 AIRPLAY 1-1 3DR 5 SPD SILVER 3000 MILES	£5995
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OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT FUEL CONSUMPTION FIGURES (RANGE): URBAN CYCLE, EXTRA URBAN, COMBINED (LITRES PER 100KM/MPG) & CO₂ EMISSIONS (G/KM); HIGHEST: C4 HATCHBACK 1.6 16V VTi 120HP AUTO 9.9/28.5, 5.4/52.3, 7.0/40.4, 165. LOWEST: C4 HATCHBACK 1.6Hdi 16V 90HP 5.6/50.4, 3.7/76.3, 4.4/64.2, 115.

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FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader



RAV's extra drive

TOYOTA'S RAV4 continues to move upmarket, but a midlife facelift for the current model has given something back to its loyal fanbase.

A much reduced line-up – priced from £18,995 – has gained Toyota's Optimal Drive technology, which delivers more power with lower emissions and consumption. A front-wheel drive only economy option has also been revived; this was offered on the previous generation RAV, but axed after poor sales.

Just two highly-spec'd trim levels are offered – XT-R and SR – with alloys, leather, Bluetooth, dual-zone climate control, auto headlights and wipers, heated front seats and keyless 'Smart Entry and Start' as standard.

All versions also come with the current generation fold flat rear seating – those on the second generation range had to be wrestled from the car to create maximum cargo capacity.

If prices are too rich, Toyota shrewdly introduced a more affordable junior Tonka toy earlier in '09, the Urban Cruiser (from £14,500), also available with two or four-wheel drive.

Ceed styling and the new Kia face

CELEBRATING confirmation as one half of the world's fourth biggest motor group – along with Hyundai and now ahead of Ford – Kia has unveiled a new corporate 'face'.

It is part of a smart facelift for its Ford Focus class hatchback, the Ceed, arriving in October and including an ultra-green low emissions 'ECO-dynamics' (110 g/km CO₂) option with stop/start feature, while emissions across the range have been cut by around five per cent.

The new corporate grille and front end styling is the most obvious change, but a revised suspension set-up should edge the Ceed closer to driving stars like the Focus and the new VW Golf.

The company says the interior – already far better than previous generation Kias – has been thoroughly revised and the market-leading seven-year warranty is also carried over.



Sudden explosion of Kuga population



FROM being one of the rarest Fords on sale, the Kuga SUV may become better known.

After a slow burn since launch in 2008, coinciding with a consumer swing away from 4x4s and rugged styling, the Kuga was Britain's best-selling compact 4x4 in July.

However, while consumers are becoming more discerning about 4x4s rather than

simply rejecting them all as 'gas guzzlers', the suspicion lingers that the sudden jump in Kuga sales may have been engineered by Ford, which has 'previous' for pre-registering cars through its dealerships.

Ultimately though, we think the Kuga is one of the best handling compact SUVs on the market; if Ford has been quietly selling them cheap then some people have snapped up bargains.

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FRONT BRAKES & DISCS	£139.99	£195.05	£178.99
CLUTCHES	£329.99	£466.74	N/A

Price comparisons based on a 2004 Peugeot 206 1.4 petrol model, competitors prices taken from their web sites, comparison prices correct on 23/07/09, prices do not take into account any local special offers.

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BEST: (Left to right) Citroën Nemo Multispace tipped to hold its value best; Nissan's Note is less great at holding value, but a practical second-hand bargain; Kia Soul – practical yet stylish

ROBUST prices being paid for used mini-MPVs have highlighted belt-tightening by recession-hit car buyers, *writes Steve Loader*.

Cars in this sector are some of the most uninspiring to own – they would have all the catwalk appeal of a pair of overalls in the world of fashion.

But they are up there with Armani and Co at present as consumers hunt minimum running costs and maximum practicality.

And values have held particularly firm in a market where all decent used car stock is in short supply.

Martin Keighley, valuation expert at vehicle information supplier HPI, said the sector was a strange mixture of van-based cars and high roof superminis.

"This rapidly growing sector used to be dominated by 'old school' models such as the Citroën Berlingo, Renault Kangoo, Vauxhall Meriva, Ford Fusion and Fiat Doblo," he said.

"The new generation includes the likes of the Citroën Nemo, Fiat Qubo, Kia Soul and Citroën C3 Picasso with van-based models increasingly popular. As the 'ugly duckling'

Mini-MPV values firm as buyers hunt cost-savings

class, function comes before style every time – urban cool is replaced by space for passengers and luggage.

"Citroën dominates this class with three out of the top five of the best performers, with the low-cost Nemo a clear winner and worth considering for anyone shopping for an MPV."

Keighley reports the average forecast value for cars on the UK market at present is 31 per

cent after three years and 60,000 miles, but the Nemo, Soul, Berlingo, Qubo and C3 Picasso exceed this, though the mini-MPV sector average is just 27.6 per cent, perhaps reflecting the lack of appeal of some older van-based models.

Though Keighley added that the non-van based Vauxhall Meriva, Nissan Note and Renault Modus all had lower than average

HPI'S TOP 10 FOR MINI-MPV RETAINING THEIR VALUE IS:

- 1) Citroën Nemo Multispace
- 2) Kia Soul
- 3) Citroën Berlingo Multispace
- 4) Fiat Qubo
- 5) Citroën C3 Picasso
- 6) Toyota Urban Cruiser
- 7) Renault Kangoo (new model)
- 8) Skoda Roomster
- 9) Daihatsu Materia
- 10) Nissan Note

residuals, with the sliding-door Peugeot 1007 bottom of the pile with a second-hand value of just 21 per cent after three years/60,000 miles.

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08	58	Agila Club A/c	1.2	5	Steel Silver	4,385	8,495
08	58	Agila Design	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	6,441	8,695
08	58	Agila Club A/c CDTi	1.3D	5	Steel silver	6,450	9,495

ASTRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Astra Elite CDTi	1.9	5	Ultra blue	37,950	8,995
06	06	Astra Club E/T	1.6	5	Star silver	41,120	6,495
06	56	Astra VXR	2.0	3	Power red	12,675	13,495
07	57	Astra Club CDTi Est	1.3D	5	Panacotta	8,275	8,995
08	08	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Black sapphire	15,890	9,595
08	58	Astra Sxi	1.6	5	Green spirit	3,725	10,995
08	58	Astra Exclusiv T/T	1.8	2	Panacotta	12,690	14,995
08	58	Astra Breeze Sports hatch	1.4	3	Black sapphire	3,100	10,495
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Ultra blue	5,650	10,995
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Metro blue	4,720	10,995

CORSA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
02	52*	Corsa Comfort Auto	1.4	5	Star silver	32,050	3,995
03	03*	Corsa Club	1.0	5	Star silver	60,050	3,495
06	06	Corsa Sxi Plus	1.2	3	Silver lightening	30,725	5,495
06	56	Corsa Sxi Plus	1.4	3	Silver lightening	22,925	6,495
07	07	New Corsa Design Auto	1.4	5	Star silver	23,275	8,495
07	07	New Corsa Sxi	1.4	3	Flame red	30,750	7,595
08	58	New Corsa Sxi CDTi	1.3D	3	Star silver	4,200	9,995
08	08	New Corsa Design	1.4	3	Star silver	4,350	8,995

INSIGNIA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
09	58	Insignia Elite Auto Nav	2.0	5	Star silver	4,060	19,995

MERIVA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Meriva CDTi	1.4	5	Silver lightening	18,950	7,995
08	58	Meriva CDTi Breeze Plus	1.3	5	Black sapphire	10,930	10,995
08	58	Meriva Life	1.4	5	Air blue	3,720	8,995

TIGRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Air blue	30,500	9,495

VECTRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
08	58	Vectra Exclusiv CDTi (150ps)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	12,750	10,745

ZAFIRA



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Zafira Active CDTi	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	38,860	9,495
08	58	Zafira Breeze CDTi Plus	1.9D	5	Metro blue	12,600	12,995

OTHER MAKES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
02	02*	Ford Focus Ghia	1.6	5	White	50,475	3,995

DUE SOON

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
07	57	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Air blue	15,300	7,795
07	57	Corsa Design CDTi	1.3D	5	Air blue	24,000	8,395
04	04	Astra LS Auto	1.6	5	Star silver	32,500	3,695
07	07	Astra Design CDTi	1.7D	5	Moonland	22,000	9,295
09	09	Zafira Sri XP CDTi	1.9D	5	Star silver	TBA	18,995
09	09	Insignia Elite CDTi Auto (160)	1.9D	4	Black sapphire	TBA	22,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (160)	1.9D	5	Panacotta	TBA	17,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv (180)	1.9D	5	Silver lightening	TBA	17,995
09	09	Insignia SR Nav (160)	1.9D	5	Technical grey	TBA	21,995
09	09	Tigra Exclusive	1.4	2	Antigua	TBA	13,995
08	58	Insignia Sri (160)	2.0	5	Black sapphire	11,000	16,995
06	56	Meriva Active	1.4	5	Star silver	30,000	6,995

COMPANY OWNED VEHICLES - CARS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Dr	Colour	M/age	£
08	58	Agila Design	1.2	5	Steel silver	TBA	8,995
08	58	Agila Club	1.2	5	Moroccan blue	4,850	8,595
08	58	Corsa Design	1.2	3	Black sapphire	TBA	9,245
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/C	1.3	3	Black sapphire	TBA	10,495
09	09	Corsa Sxi CDTi A/c	1.3	3	Flame red	TBA	10,495
09	09	Corsa Active	1.2	5	Silver lightening	TBA	9,995
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	TBA	10,395
09	09	Corsa Design In Touch	1.2	3	Black sapphire	TBA	9,995
09	09	Corsa Sxi In Touch	1.2	5	Star silver	TBA	10,395
09	09	Corsa Sxi In touch	1.2	3	Flame red	TBA	9,495
08	58	Astra Sri X Pack	1.8	3	Black sapphire	TBA	13,495
09	09	Astra Breeze Plus CDTi	1.7D	5	Star silver	TBA	11,995
09	09	Astra Design Auto	1.8	5	Metro blue	TBA	12,995
09	09	Astra Breeze CDTi	1.7D	5	Silver lightening	TBA	10,995
09	09	Astra Breeze Plus	1.6	5	Metro blue	TBA	10,345
09	09	Tigra Exclusiv	1.4	2	Black sapphire	TBA	13,995
09	09	Meriva Active CDTi	1.3D	5	Ultra blue	TBA	11,995
09	09	Zafira Active CDTi	1.9D	5	Ultra blue	TBA	13,995
09	09	Zafira Exclusiv CDTi	1.9D	5	Sovereign silver	TBA	13,995
09	09	Insignia Sports Tourer Exclusiv	1.8	5	Black sapphire	TBA	14,995

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ASTRAVAN



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£
06	06	Astravan	1.7 CDTi	White	36,250	£5,495

COMBO



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£
07	07	Combo	1.3CDTi Crew van,	White	8,700	£7,495
08	58	Combo	1.3CDTi	White	6,000	£6,995

MOVANO



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£
06	56	Movano	2.5 CDTi LWB 100bhp	Silver	19,700	£8,995
07	57	Movano	2.50CDTi	White	10,300	£10,995
08	08	Movano	2.5CDTi MWB	White	11,050	£10,495
08	08	Movano	2.5CDTi LWB, Plylined	White	6,460	£11,995
08	58	Movano	2.5CDTi MWB Plylined	White	14,050	£10,995

VIVARO



Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi Plylined, SWB	White	16,050	£8,495
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi Plylined, SWB	White	16,650	£8,495
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi Plylined, SWB	White	3,770	£8,795
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi Plylined, SWB	White	6,205	£8,795

PRE-REG VEHICLES

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£
08	08	Vivaro	2.0CDTi SWB, 90BHP	White	Delivery	£9,995

OTHERS

Year	Reg	Model	Eng	Colour	M/age	£	
05	55*	Traffic	1.9D	Renault, SWB	Star silver	52550	4,995

*All Commercial Vehicle prices exclude VAT at 15%

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Warranty and offer only available on new cars purchased in the UK and source through Hyundai Motor UK Limited or its authorised dealer. On the road (OTR)* prices include delivery, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. Terms and conditions apply. All prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. Please note models portrayed for illustration purposes only.



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05	Suzuki Jimmy 1.3 OZ	3 Door Convertible 16,800 Miles Silver Manual	£4,995
06	Suzuki Swift 1.5 GLX	5 Door Hatchback 21,283 Miles Red Manual	£6,995
08	Suzuki Splash 1.0	5 Door Hatchback 5,081 Miles Turquoise Manual	£7,495
08	Suzuki Splash 1.2 GLS	5 Door Hatchback 4,231 Miles Red Manual	£7,795
08	Suzuki Splash 1.2 DDiS	5dr Hatchback 8,666 Miles Green Manual Diesel	£8,150
08	Suzuki Splash 1.2	5 Door Hatchback 3,200 Miles Turquoise Manual	£8,195
07	Suzuki Swift 1.6 Sport	3dr Hatchback 17,000 Miles Black Met Manual	£8,595
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08	Hyundai i30 2.0 CRTD Premium	5dr Hatchback 17,000 Miles Black Manual Diesel	£11,795
08	Hyundai i30 2.0 CRTD Premium	5dr Hatchback 11,000 Miles Red Manual Diesel	£11,995
08	Hyundai i30 1.6 CRTD Premium	5 Door Hatchback 2,800 Miles Red Auto Diesel	£12,495



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The Official Fuel Consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km) for the Suzuki Grand Vitara Range are: Urban 10.5 - 14.4 (26.9 - 19.6), Extra Urban 7.5 - 8.3 (37.7 - 34.0), Combined 8.6 - 10.6 (32.8 - 26.7) and CO2 205 - 245 (g/km).

[†]Finance subject to availability. (Over 18's only). Written quotations available on request. A guarantee may be required. All offers and vehicles offered are subject to availability while stocks last.

Please note models portrayed are for illustration purposes only. Details correct at time of going to print. *50% Deposit required over 2 years. **30% Deposit required over 3 years. #Price shown are after scrappage allowance.

DrivingReview

by
STEVE LOADERCHIEF DRIVING CORRESPONDENT
steve.loader@kosmedia.co.uk**Honda Civic**

STARSHIP styling and warp drive performance from Honda's hot Type-R version of the Civic, sent me into orbit for Motors TV.

The video report – see 'Star Drive' at www.carsforkent.co.uk – became a mad mix of Blade Runner and Star Trek.

Surely the mainstream diesel would keep my feet on the ground though? Not quite.

With the same racy coupé styling – even on the five-door – spaceship dashboard, plus a responsive 138bhp 2.2-litre engine and plenty of lowdown pulling power, the 'oil burner' can still launch to 62mph in 8.7 seconds – just 1.4 behind the Type-R.

No wonder so many owners are then tempted to seek even more power through tuning kits/software packages available for this wonderfully smooth engine.

We were tipped off that at least one official Honda dealer uses a package offered by Celtic Tuning, based in the West Country yet able to supply nationwide from a reasonable £295.

Civic diesel does starship trick too



One typical customer comment I noted was: "I am thrilled with the result and the car is just so much more flexible, even though the Honda diesel is a great engine to start with."

A company spokesman told us the engine – Honda's first-ever self-built diesel – was "a very smooth, clean and refined unit which lends itself very well indeed to performance tuning".

Celtic has re-mapped/tuned more than 114

2.2 CTDi diesels this year, not including those through associated motor dealerships. The company's standard tune is 194bhp and 316lbft torque (428NM) compared with the factory-set 138 and 251 respectively. Celtic can make further modifications and power increases of 200-plus bhp, but these require more modifications, whereas the preferred package is affordable, easily applied and

maintains the longevity of the clutch.

But how would an owner stand on a warranty claim? Celtic's man said a remap would be hard to spot at main dealer level, but could show up through intensive investigation by Honda, but he added: "We have remapped a great number of these and to date not had issue with any warranty claims. To reinforce the issue we actually remap brand new Hondas for

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.2 S 3dr: Urban - 39.2 (7.2), Extra-urban - 61.4 (4.6), Combined - 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions 132g/km. Matiz 0.8 S 5dr: Urban - 43.5 (6.5), Extra-urban - 68.9 (4.1), Combined - 56.5 (5.0). CO₂ emissions 119g/km.

*Discount price of £4,495 relates to Matiz 0.8 S 5dr model only (for Aveo 1.2 S 3dr £5,995). Vehicles shown feature metallic paint available at extra cost (Matiz £325, Aveo £350). 3 years/30,000 miles full service package at an optional cost of £249. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. £2,000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded-in against a new vehicle subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. Offers apply to new vehicles ordered or registered between 07.07.09 and 30.09.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. †Subject to availability. (Chev78606)



a certain Honda main dealer in the UK.”

One thing that such extra power will not deliver is the Type-R’s tweaked chassis, but our highly specified 2.2i-CTDi EX five-door (£20,180), proved to be a lively, eye-catching car, good to drive, economical – an average around 50mpg should be possible – and practical too.

Basic Civic shortcomings remain, of course: the smart spoiler that splits the tailgate ham-

pers rearward vision and prevents fitting a rear wash/wipe, though I never found this a problem.

And the rising waistline that works so well for the futuristic styling also makes it harder for kids and smaller passengers to see out, while generous under floor storage beneath an already big boot is achieved by omitting the spare wheel.

But I do feel like I am nit-picking when the

Civic does so much else well: the styling will still cut a dash when this version finally gets the chop – unlike its predecessor – and the quality of the interior is excellent.

True, that Star Trek fascia divides opinion and can look fussy, but it works well and the digital speedo sits right in your eyeline.

And it is a real driver’s car without being harsh on any passengers; tight cornering and

DrivingStats

- Honda Civic 2.2i CTDi EX 5dr £20,180
- Range: £14,750-21,780
- Garage stats: 4.25m by 1.76m five-door family hatchback
- Powertrain: 2,204cc/138bhp four-cylinder diesel driving front wheels through a six-speed manual gearbox
- Performance: top speed 127mph and 0-62mph in 8.7 seconds
- How green?: group E (£120/year) road tax - 139g/km CO2 emissions
- Official fuel figures: combined 53.3mpg
- Euro NCAP safety rating (0-5 stars): n/a
- Fuel tank: 50 litres/11 gallons
- Insurance group: 11
- Warranty: three years/90,000miles.
- Rivals: Audi A3, BMW 1-Series, Citroen C4, Ford Focus, Hyundai i30, Kia Ceed, Mazda3, Mitsubishi Lancer, Peugeot 308, Renault Megane, Seat Leon, Skoda Octavia, Subaru Impreza, Toyota Auris, Vauxhall Astra, Volvo C30 and VW Golf

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grip is aided and abetted by a crisp six-speed gearbox and light yet responsive steering.

Civic prices start at £14,750 for the 1.4-litre petrol three-door model, with the diesels weighing in from £17,825 – not bad for a distinctive and reliable Swindon UK-built family hatch cum space shuttle.

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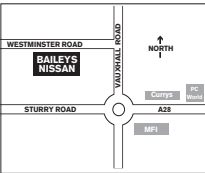
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*Finance is available subject to status on eligible new vehicles registered between 03/08/09 and 30/09/09 in the UK to persons aged 18 or over. Guarantees and Indemnities may be required. Preferences examples based on an agreed annual mileage of 10,000 miles. Further charges may be made subject to mileage and condition if you elect to return the vehicle at the end of the agreement. Offers are available at participating dealers only. Nissan Finance, a trading style of RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 495, Watford WD17 1EJ. **3+3+3 package is available on eligible Navara, X-TRAIL and Pathfinder models registered in the UK between 03/08/09 and 30/09/09 at participating Nissan 4x4 Centres. Offer excludes Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands. This offer is not available in conjunction with any other offers. The service care plan covers the cost of three services up to three years or 37,500 miles for X-TRAIL models, and two services up to four years or 36,000 miles for Navara/Pathfinder models. Benefits and services are provided by RAC Motoring Services and/ or RAC Insurance Ltd (reg'd nos 1424399 & 2355834 Reg'd office RAC House, 1 Forest Road, Feltham, TW13 7RR). RAC Motoring Services (in respect of insurance mediation activities only) and RAC Insurance Limited are authorised and regulated by the Financial Services Authority and within the jurisdiction of the Financial Ombudsman Service and Financial Services Compensation Scheme. See Nissan Roadside Assistance welcome pack for details of breakdown and recovery services entitlement. Details of the contractual arrangements under which RAC Services are provided to you are available by calling 0870 366 5603. All prices include £55 first registration fee and road fund licence. Model shots shown are for illustration purposes only. Information correct at time of going to press. Refer to dealer for exact specification. This advert supersedes any previously advertised offers. This offer is not available in conjunction with any other offer. Advertised offers are not available with Government Scrappage Incentive. Models subject to availability. X-TRAIL, Navara and Pathfinder shown have optional metallic paint at £475 including 15% VAT. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 8YB.

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Models shown Civic 5dr 1.4 i-VTEC SE man, Civic 5dr 1.8 i-VTEC SE man, Civic 1.4 i-VTEC Type S man and Civic 2.0 i-VTEC Type R GT man. Fuel consumption for Honda range in mpg (l/100km): Urban 38.7-22.2 (7.3-12.7), Extra Urban 56.5-40.4 (5.0-7.0), Combined 47.9-31 (5.9-9.1), CO2 215-135g/km. Offer is valid on 09YM 1.4 i-VTEC Civic Type S Man, 09YM 1.4 i-VTEC Civic 5dr SE Man, 09YM 1.8 i-VTEC Civic 5dr SE Man, 09YM 2.0 i-VTEC Civic Type R GT Man from the 17 June 2009 until 29 September 2009. Offer applicable at participating dealers and are at the promoters' absolute discretion. Subject to model and colour availability. Retail Customers only. Excludes metallic paint. Price points may not be used in conjunction with the Scrappage Scheme. The savings specified in this advertisement refer to prices correct at 1 July 2009 and not before. Minimum deposit 35%, maximum term 36 months. Finance is only available to persons aged 18 or over subject to status. All figures are correct at time of publication but may be subject to change. Credit provided by Honda Finance Europe Plc., 470 London Road, Slough, Berkshire SL3 8QY.

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ALFA ROMEO

156, 16d 16v Turismo, e454wvd, alarm, immobiliser, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, colour coded interior, height adjustable seat, sports seats, adjustable steering column, power steering, trip computer, abs, child locks, s. blue grey metallic, 59000 miles, £4990, Kent, 01342 851122 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JTDM Lusso 4dr QTRONIC Diesel Saloon, g107kcv, pas, abs, remote central locking, front electric windows, front fog lights, alarm, trip computer, cruise control, side airbags, electric/mirror mirrors, steering wheel reach adjustment, drivers airbag, service indicator 3/3 point rear seat belts, immobiliser, stromboli grey metallic, 15600 miles, £14975, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, TDI Sport Special Edition 5dr, 1432461, metallic paintwork, rear wash/wipe, cd player, air conditioning, electric mirrors, electric windows, dvd player, remote central locking, cloth upholstery, head restraints, power steering, colour coded body, abs, folding rear seats, rear headrests, twin air bags, 16" alloys, aluminium silver, 28000 miles, £11999, Maidstone, 01622 200 100 (TRADE)

A3, 1.9tdi special edition, 2007, grey metallic with grey cloth sports seats, 56000 miles, £11899, Kent, 01795426700 (TRADE)

RSG, CAT D REPAIRED, 2003, grey with black leather, 27000 miles, £13995, Dover, 01304 242324 (TRADE)

TT, Roadster, 6932079, air conditioning, climate control, trip computer, abs, power steering, twin air bags, traction control, remote central locking, remote alarm, front fog lamps, cd player, radio, electric windows, electric mirrors, adjustable steering column, height adjustable seat, cloth upholstery, power hood, alloy wheels, grey, 41900 miles, £8995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

TT, 3.2 quattro, g104dny, 18in alloy wheels, 5 speed automatic gearbox, alarm, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, climate control, driver information system, front fog lights, front head air bags, front head restraints, speakers, avus silver metallic, 50720 miles, £12485, Tunbridge Wells, 01892 549766 (TRADE)

BENTLEY

AZURE, V8 CON AUTO SAT NAV, 23559188, only 15455 miles, 56 plate bentley, sat nav, ultrasonic park distance control with reversing camera, manufacturers service history, magnolia hide leather upholstery, blue roof, 19" upgraded alloys, two tone leather steering wheel, bentley marque badges to waistrails and inset chrome strip, french navy carpets, chromed door mirror caps, drilled aluminium foot pedals, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, £129000, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

BMW

1 Series, 120i M SPORT, ek56abn, only 40460 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, black, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 118d M SPORT, ef56jfe, only 63503 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, black, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

1 SERIES, 120d M SPORT, ds60lwk, only 60894 miles, manufacturers service history, upgraded alloys, cd player, areosport spoilers, dynamic stability control, abs, adjustable steering column, air conditioning, alarm, anti dazzle rear screen, anti skid control + traction, bmw business stereo, clear lenses, climate control, cruise control, drivers central armrest, electric windows, electric wing mirrors, front fog-lights, full child safety window lock, full motor-sports bodykit, fully colour coded, high level rear brake light, immobiliser, motorsport front & rear spoilers, m-tech steering wheel & gear lever, multi airbag system, multi function steering wheel, on board computer, pas, rear headrests, remote key central locking, sports seats with under-thigh support, sports suspension, third point seat belt, beat this price, fantastic price, absolutely fantastic price, find more like this, just look at these low miles, absolutely amazing car at this low price, this price cannot be beaten, over 314 bmws in stock, big value, just off m20/m26/m2, ** sold with a minimum of 6 months mot on all vehicles over 36 months old & comes complete with a comprehensive parts + labour warranty *** we average over 350 bmw's in group stock ** our opening hours are from 8:30am until 6pm mon sat ** sun 10am until 6pm** during office hours please call our sales office on 01732 220555 ** out of hours please call on 07956 158119 between 6pm until 10pm ** Big Motoring World, black, £11997, Wrotham Heath, 01732 220555 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

AVEO, Lt, 5dr, ex58abs, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, central locking, power steering, air conditioning, electric front windows, trip computer, cd player, rear wash/wipe, front fog lamps, automatic electric windows, radio, mp3 player, child locks, cloth upholstery, isofix, power steering, air conditioning, 14" alloys, tilttable steering column, front seatbelt pretensioners, height adjustable front seatbelts, door courtesy lamps, leather steering wheel and gear knob, 3 point rear seatbelts x3, space saver spare wheel, passenger seat side pocket, 60/40 split folding rear seat, headlamp levelling, lidded glovebox, black finish on b pillars, remote fuel cap release, height adjustable driver's seat, body colour door handles, front door pockets, 6 speakers, adjustable headrests, variable intermittent front wash/wipe, driver/passenger sunvisors and vanity mirrors, front cupholders, tinted glass all round, 2 front seat back pockets, driver sunglasses holder, rear seat back table top, metallic interior trim, electrically adjustable and heated door mirrors, body coloured door mirrors, 15" alloy wheels, side window demist vents, body coloured bumpers, roof spoiler, steering wheel mounted audio controls, grey, 4000 miles, £7995, Bexleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

AVEO, Lt, hu58xpc, 15" alloys, blue, 1800 miles, £7995, Welling, 0208 303 4030 (TRADE)

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08/08	308 SDR 'S' 1.6 VTI 120 IN NERA BLACK 14389 MILES	£9995	£9295
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09/09	BIPPER S HDi AUTO VAN - BIANCA WHITE - DEL MILES	£7675	£6995
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AVEO, 1.2 S, g109wue, cloth, charcoal, 3 years warranty, air bag passenger, air-conditioning, digital clock, front seat belt pre-tensioners, paint metallic, paint mica, highway yellow, 500 miles, £5995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

AVEO, 1.2 S, g109gie, cloth, cozy grey, 14in steel wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag side, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, centre rear seat belt, cup holder, five seats seating capacity, four speakers, front electric windows, front tinted glass, front windscreen wiper, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, manual mirrors external, power-assisted steering, radio/cd/mp3, rake adjustable steering column/wheel, rear rear wash/wipe, remote central door locking, seats split rear, sunroof visor, unspecified, upholstery cloth, blue, 1500 miles, £6795.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

AVEO, 1.2 S, g109ghu, cloth, cloth, 14in steel wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag side, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, centre rear seat belt, cup holder, five seats seating capacity, four speakers, front electric windows, front tinted glass, front windscreen wiper, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, manual mirrors external, power-assisted steering, radio/cd/mp3, rake adjustable steering column/wheel, rear rear wash/wipe, remote central door locking, seats split rear, sunroof visor, unspecified, upholstery cloth, black, 100 miles, £6995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

AVEO, 1.2 S, g109ghn, cloth, cloth, 14in steel wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag side, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, centre rear seat belt, cup holder, five seats seating capacity, four speakers, front electric windows, front tinted glass, front windscreen wiper, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, manual mirrors external, power-assisted steering, 100 miles, £6995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 TD LS, g158cxk, cloth, cloth, 16in alloy wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag passenger, air bag side, air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes, ashtray/lighter, audio steering wheel mounted controls, armrest, front/rear electric, spacesaver spare wheel, unspecified, upholstery cloth, poly silver, 4000 miles, £12995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 TD LTX, g109giu, leather, leather (black), air bag driver, air bag passenger, air bag side, anti-lock brakes, ashtray/lighter, audio steering wheel mounted controls, centre rear seat belt, climate control, cruise control, cup holder, driver seat height adjustment, electric/heated mirrors external, electronic stability programme, front fog lights, front/rear armrest, front/rear electric windows, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, paint metallic, paint mica, power-assisted steering, radio/cd autochanger, gold, 1000 miles, £19995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

CRUZE, 1.6 LS, g109bfu, cloth, charcoal, 16in steel wheels, air bag driver, air bag passenger, air-conditioning, anti-lock brakes, centre rear seat belt, five seats seating capacity, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, manual mirrors external, paint metallic, power-assisted steering, radio/cd, remote central door locking, satellite navigation, unspecified, upholstery cloth, mighty blue, 5 miles, £11995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

EPICA, 2.0 TD LT, g158cxl, leather, charcoal leather, 17in alloy wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag passenger, anti-lock brakes, audio steering wheel mounted controls, automatic-dimming rear view mirrors internal, body coloured bumpers, climate control, cruise control, digital clock, driver seat height adjustment, driver/passenger seat lumbar support, driver/passenger seats heated, eight speakers, silver, 13000 miles, £12995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.8 Sport, g108vin, leather, charcoal leather, 15in alloy wheels, 3 years warranty, air bag driver, air bag passenger, anti-lock brakes, ashtray/lighter, audio steering wheel mounted controls, body coloured bumpers, carpet, centre rear seat belt, cigar lighter, digital clock, gear knob leather, immobiliser, package interior, paint metallic, paint mica, power-assisted steering, radio/cd, rake/reach adjustable steering column/wheel, remote central door locking, six speakers, black, 6000 miles, £7995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

LACETTI, 1.4 SE, g109wum, cloth, etch grey, 15in steel wheels, air bag driver, air bag passenger, anti-lock brakes, body coloured bumpers, centre rear seat belt, driver seat height adjustment, electric mirrors external, five seats seating capacity, four speakers, front electric windows, front/rear head restraints, immobiliser, package interior, paint metallic, paint mica, power-assisted steering, radio/cd, rake adjustable, misty blue, 100 miles, £6995.0000, Canterbury, 01227 766777 (TRADE)

LACETTI, SX, gu58ncx, abs, air bag, side air bags, immobiliser, traction control, air conditioning, cd player, rear wash/wipe, roof rails, adjustable steering column, automatic electric windows, radio, folding rear seats, head restraints, cloth upholstery, isofix, air conditioning, tinted glass, cigar lighter, front seatbelt pretensioners, space saver spare wheel, knob, sunvisor with ticket holder, driver's window, black, 4000 miles, £7495, Boxleyheath, 01322 524 680 (TRADE)

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BERLINGO, Multispace Forte D, gu54 fuy, remote central locking, remote alarm, abs, power steering, rear wash/wipe, rear headrests, cloth upholstery, electric front windows, radio cassette, adjustable steering column, twin air bags, beige, 35000 miles, £4995, Plumstead, 020 8855 4000 (TRADE)

BERLINGO, 1.6HDI Refrigerated Chiller / Freezer, aaaaaa, cd player, power steering, electric windows, electric mirrors, remote central locking, brand new, delivery mileage, grp lined BHRV.co.uk, white, 15 miles, £9595, Sevenoaks, 01474 853034 (TRADE)

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Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes and models.



General Car Auction for cars under £1000
Starts at 12.00noon
Approximately 100~150 cars on offer, all makes & models.



NOTES FOR ALL SALES

Although entries are accepted up to 7.00pm on Sunday 30th August, we would strongly advise you, where possible, to book your vehicles in as early as possible, either by phone, email, or our new instant pre-booking service available on the internet to get maximum coverage.

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'59 plate could be a recession-buster

WE are not out of recession yet, but buying a new '59-plate car could still make sense.

Assailed by falling demand and over-capacity, carmakers and their dealers have been desperate to move metal and many have discounts, leases and finance packages to tempt even the gloomiest recession watcher.

Those lucky enough to have savings may also be looking at the paltry interest rates earned and thinking this might be a good time to use that capital to cut the motoring budget and save there instead, either by downsizing or buying a more economical and eco-friendly/low road tax model; sales of city cars and superminis are booming.

Anyone currently owning a 10-year-old car might also be eligible for a £2,000 windfall under the Government-sponsored Scrappage Scheme in return for buying a new replacement. The appeal of buying new has also been enhanced by narrowing options on the used market, where prices have become ridiculous at a time when hard cash is tight.

COMMENT

By **STEVE LOADER**

Year-old examples such as ex-fleeters and dealer demonstrators have shot up 25 per cent in value this year, while the three-year/average mileage examples that are dealers' mainstay stock are in short supply as forecourts and private buyers haggle up prices at auction. The shortfall and consequent rise in used values has been caused by consumers and fleets backing off buying new cars at the first signs of recession, which has knocked on to choke used supplies a year or so further down the line.

Experts at Glass's Guide – the valuation 'bible' of the used car market – report used car stocks at an "all-time low" with no prospect of improvement in supply or weakening in prices. With the '59 plate upon us, surely some used car buyers will see the sense in buying a new motor and cheering themselves up too?



Booming sales for superminis like the Skoda Fabia – pictured here in BlueLine trim

Our shrinking obsession

ECONOMIC recession is driving us to downsize and think 'eco' – economical and eco-friendly.

But superminis and city runabouts are not just in demand for size and economy; they are cars for all occasions, tackling motorways as well as coping with stop/go town traffic.

They can usually carry four to five adults and deliver greater economy through small diesels and hi-tech petrol units. No wonder they attract buyers from across the spectrum: young families, households needing a second car, first time car buyers, or elderly couples counting the pennies.

Demand has been higher lately, encouraged by the Government-sponsored Scrappage Scheme; a £2,000 grant looks more attractive on a cheaper car.

Marques to watch:

CHEVROLET: keen prices are the brand's hallmark and the five-door Matiz city car is a bargain, while the three/five-door Aveo is its supermini challenger.

CITROËN: with the smart three/five-door C1 city car and three-door C2 and five-door C3 superminis, the French marque is a small car expert offering good value.

DAIHATSU: the Japanese brand is hard to beat for compact value. A new Charade city car arrives shortly, while the bigger Sirion shares underpin-

Mitsubishi Colt – check out eco Cleartec models



Suzuki Swift – a big seller

nings with the Toyota Yaris, yet costs less.

HYUNDAI: the Korean brand really has grabbed the sector with two all-new offerings: the spacious five-door i10 city car and

stylish i20 three/five-door supermini.

MAZDA: the racy yet economical three and five-door Mazda2 has Zoom Zoom appeal, but is keenly priced, economical and good to drive.

MITSUBISHI: the capacious three/five-door Colt supermini had a facelift this year and now offers ultra economical Cleartec versions as well as racy new Ralliart models.

SEAT: the crisp styling of the three and five-door Ibiza can be married to ultra-green Ecomotion models or, at the other extreme, hot FR versions.

SKODA: the Czech marque's five-door Fabia remains excellent value, but is smarter than before, well made and cheap to run, including an eco-friendly

Toyota Yaris – classy new powertrains

Greenline model.

SUZUKI: Suzuki has just launched the cut-price Alto city car to complement the popular Swift supermini and spacious Splash mini-MPV.

TOYOTA: recently added the brilliant IQ ultra-compact city car, but the three/five-door Aygo remains a big seller while the Yaris supermini offers space, class and economy.

VAUXHALL: the three/five-door Corsa supermini is one of the UK's favourite cars and comes in racy three or five-door formats, but has a five-door Agila mini-MPV sister for families desperate to downsize.

VW: an all-new Polo is available to order or you could haggle for any unsold old model stock and then there is the affordable three-door Fox city car – a cheap way into the VW badge.



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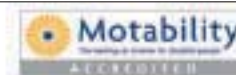
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*Price shown is for Savvy 1.2 Style MT; manufacturers list price £7,995 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £320. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. †Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules. Terms and conditions apply.



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Model shown is new Superb Elegance 1.8 TSI 160bhp at £23,210 RRP including optional metallic paint at £400 RRP. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the new Superb Range: Urban 38.2 (14.7) - 45.5 (6.5), Extra-urban 56.2 (5.4) - 67.5 (4.2), Combined 50.0 (5.0) - 55.4 (5.1). CO2 emissions for the new Superb Range 134 - 235g/km. Retail sales only. Offer available on all new Superbs purchased and registered from 1st July 2009 to 30th September 2009 at participating retailers only. Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Škoda Finance, Freeport Škoda Finance. *Free servicing up to 30,000 miles or 3 years (whichever comes sooner). Offer may be varied or withdrawn at any time. 3 years roadside recovery provided by the RAC and includes Europe. Please see your local retailer for full terms and conditions.



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NEW ALTEA S EMOCIÓN 1.9 TDI

RRP Price £15,330

Scrappage Price £11,190*

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Models shown are the Leon S Emoción 1.6 at £13,990 RRP & the New Altea S Emoción 1.6 at £14,240 with optional metallic paint (£370 RRP). *Offers apply to vehicles sold and registered by 30th September 2009. The scrappage saving is dependent on your vehicle meeting the full Government scrappage incentive criteria and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. The Government scrappage contribution applies to vehicles registered on or before 31 August 1999 when traded-in against a new car, subject to terms and conditions.

Official fuel consumption for the SEAT range in mpg (litres per 100km); urban 25.4 (11.1) - 57.6 (4.9); extra-urban 42.8 (6.6) - 94.2 (3); combined 34.9 (8.1) - 76.3 (3.7). CO2 emissions 98 - 196 g/km.

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SUPERMINI sales are booming in these environmentally aware times, but the family hatchback class remains the optimum size for most buyers and dominates the UK sales Top 10.

It is the hardest fought sector for carmakers too as they meet demands for space, comfort and good ride, plus a 'good drive' and improving fuel consumption and emissions levels; few contenders tick all boxes.

Recommended rivals:

BMW 1-Series: sporty petrol and ultra-economic diesels have made BMW's three/five-door junior model a best seller and serial 'greener motoring' award winner.

Chevrolet Cruze: newly launched as a four-door saloon only, but the price and sharp styling is attracting lots of interest.

Citroën C4: remains one of the most distinctive and affordable in its class, whether it's the racy three-door or stylish five-door.

Hyundai i30: this five-door model launched a wave of 'i' series models from the Korean marque. High quality, good driving characteristics, Hyundai value plus a five-year warranty make this a serious player.

Mazda3: an all-new version arrived this year in five-door hatch and four-door saloon forms; a



premium option at a sensible price with generous kit and an MPS performance flagship.

Mercedes A-Class: more MPV in style, but classy enough – in three or five-door form – to tough it out in this sector, helped by a prestige badge.

Mitsubishi Lancer: available as saloon or five-door Sportback, the jet fighter-nosed Lancer is a larger contender here offering value with sharp styling.

Seat Leon: effectively a five-door coupe, the Leon is an eye-catching evocation of the Spanish marque's Auto Emocion sales pitch.

Skoda Octavia: another oversize contender, the Octavia could also fit into the family car segment and sells in five-door hatch or estate forms with a 4x4 option on the latter.

Suzuki SX4: a 4x4 option underlines the SUV styling elements, but this also makes a practical family hatch in front-wheel drive form.

Vauxhall Astra: a replacement arrives later this year, but the current Astra still looks sharp in Sports Hatch (three-door), five-door or estate form and there is a scorching VXR model.

VW Golf: an all-new 6th generation car arrived this year and raised the benchmark for style, refinement and sheer driving pleasure.

Mid-size sector holding off the supermini sales surge



VW Golf – (left) setting the sector's driving standard?; Above, the Chevrolet Cruze – good looking saloon newcomer at bargain prices; and top left, Hyundai i30 Estate – good quality yet affordable hatchback and estate (pictured) range from Korea



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'Family motors' is set for comeback



FAMILY motors once dominated Britain's car market.

This was the car type designed to please company 'user choosers', by pounding motorways on weekdays and coping with family use and abuse on weekends and holidays.

MPVs and 4x4 SUVs eroded market share, but there is now more choice of format – and luxury – in this middle ground. Economy and lower emissions are crucial too so diesel power is preferred while aerodynamics could spark a return to the lower and sleeker family motor.

Here are picks to suit all pockets:

BMW 3-SERIES: BMW's top seller is the company car to be seen in – it's upmarket, good to drive and the

best-selling 320d is a paragon of economy.

CHEVROLET EPICA: a huge saloon at an astonishing price with lots of specification thrown in. The diesel is the runaway best buy.

CITROËN C5: beating the Germans at their own game, the C5 has Audi looks, but Citroën pricing and drives well too, with excellent powertrains.

HYUNDAI SONATA: a facelift or replacement beckons due to so-so ride and handling – time to haggle a bargain laden with kit and a five-year warranty?

MAZDA6: the second generation '6' is even more elegant and far more refined. Available in saloon, hatch or estate, it is frugal and well-made.

MERCEDES-BENZ C-CLASS: saloon and estate comes in clas-



Mazda6 – (top) lives up to Zoom Zoom brand's sporty styling and credentials; while the Vauxhall Insignia (above) looks to have powered Vauxhall back into the ratings

sic or sport guises and is far superior to its predecessor. Possibly the best executive all-rounder.

SEAT EXEO: an Audi for Seat money? That's the canny proposition from this classy Spanish re-work of the previous generation Audi A4 saloon and estate.

SKODA SUPERB: "the saloon that thinks it's a hatchback" has a two-part bootlid/tailgate and Superb luxury comes with Skoda's high customer satisfaction ratings.

TOYOTA AVENSIS: the Avensis saloon and estate line-up shows it means business with sharper styling and re-modelled engines

BMW 3-Series – has become the car to be seen in for this class

for more power with better economy and emissions,

VAUXHALL INSIGNIA: has led sector sales since launch in early 2009. Replacing the barely-lamented Vectra, the saloon, hatchback and Tourer (estate) will be joined soon by the muscular VXR (pictured).

VW PASSAT: neatly straddles the mainstream and executive classes with spacious saloon and estate options backed by VW's classy diesel engines.



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Official government fuel consumption figures (mpg/litres per 100km) for the A-Class range: urban 53.3-31.4/5.3-9.0, extra urban 74.3-47.1/3.8-6.0, combined 64.2-39.8/4.4-7.1 CO2 emissions: 116-169 g/km.

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Daihatsu Materia – hot rod looks plus cool space



Citroën C4 Picasso – represents one of the market's best MPV ranges

Family crammers

PEOPLE carriers or MPVs have helped stifle sales of traditional family cars.

Buyers love the higher driving position and extra space and versatility.

The feeling that they are also getting more for their money also helps.

Despite the basic one-box or 'monocab' design, examples highlighted here also show the range of profiles adopted by MPV stylists.

CITROËN C4 PICASSO: this sharply-styled five and seven-seat model line is just part of the most comprehensive MPV line-up on the market – the versatile Picasso sub-brand is complimented by budget models such as the Berlingo Multispace.

DAIHATSU MATERIA: the retro Materia looks like a hot rod, but this is a cost-effective compact yet roomy five-seater with decent

handling.

HYUNDAI MATRIX: there can be few cheaper MPVs than the Korean five-seater, even though it is ageing. The big i800 was recently added to Hyundai's range. Keen prices go with five-year warranties.

MAZDA5: this slick and racy MPV drives as well as it looks and has sliding doors for access to the rearmost seats. It is well-priced and seats seven, at a pinch.

MERCEDES-BENZ B-CLASS: MPVs can be classy too with a three-pointed star on the front and M-B also offers the luxurious R-Class and large Viano.

MITSUBISHI GRANDIS: the low and sleek Grandis wears a touch of class to echo its name. Seven seats come as standard, but there is just the one (diesel) model.

SEAT ALTEA: the Spanish marque has injected sportiness into the MPV market with

this lively line-up available in standard and stretched XL guises and there is a larger Alhambra model too.

SKODA ROOMSTER: the Czech brand's mini-MPV

marries a car-like front with a boxy and spacious MPV rear so it drives like a car but has people carrier versatility.

TOYOTA VERSO: a new 3rd generation Verso has established it as a major player in the seven-seat midi-MPV class, now with Toyota's higher power/better economy Optimal Drive powertrains.



Seat Altea – MPVs can be sporty

VAUXHALL ZAFIRA: the seven-seat Zafira is the UK's best-selling midi-MPV. Others have copied the easy operation and folding of the rearmost seats.

VW TOURAN: a classy yet versatile seven-seater for the mainstream market and offered with VW's excellent diesel engines.

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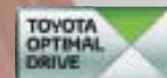
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Yaris TR 1.0 £10,060

The Yaris TR with Toyota Optimal Drive.

Auris TR 1.33 £13,065

The Auris TR 1.33 VVT-i with Toyota Optimal Drive



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Tomorrow
Toyota

Models shown AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £8,995. Yaris TR 1.0 VVT-i 3 door manual £10,060, price includes customer saving of £500. Auris TR 1.33 VVT-i 3 door manual £13,065 price includes customer saving of £1,000, metallic paint £400 extra. Prices correct at time of going to press and include VAT, delivery charge, number plates, one year's road fund licence and £55 first registration fee. Subject to availability.

AYGO Blue 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 51.4 (5.5), Extra Urban 72.4 (3.9), Combined 62.8 (4.5). CO2 Emissions 106 g/km. Yaris TR 1.0 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 47.1 (6.0), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 56.5 (5.0). CO2 Emissions 118g/km. Auris TR 1.33 VVT-i Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km), Urban 39.8 (7.1), Extra Urban 55.4 (5.1), Combined 48.7 (5.8). CO2 Emissions 136g/km.

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Models featured: (1) Hyundai i20 Style 1.4 (2010 MY) at £11,555 OTR in Steel Silver metallic paint at £355 included. (2) Hyundai i30 Comfort 1.4 at £9,895 OTR in Shine Red solid paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £1,705. (3) Hyundai Coupe SIII 2.0 at £12,995 OTR in Electric Red solid paint at no extra cost. Price includes a customer saving of £5,035. Prices shown are On The Road (OTR) and where applicable reflect customer savings discounts against manufacturer's recommended OTR price at the time of publication, subject to purchase and registration taking place between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009. For details please refer to www.hyundai.co.uk/i20/prices/, www.hyundai.co.uk/i30/prices/, www.hyundai.co.uk/coupeSIII/prices/, or Hyundai's July 2009 price guide, reference 07/09 HB2729. On the road price (OTR) includes VAT where applicable, delivery, vehicle first registration fee, number plates and 12 months' road fund licence. Part-exchange allowance applies in addition to dealership valuation on agreed part-exchange deals at participating authorised dealers only, is subject to purchase and registration taking place between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009 and does not apply to vehicles traded in under the Government's Scrappage Scheme or Hyundai's "Top-Up Plus" offers or to vehicles purchased for business purposes. Part-exchange valuations are at dealer's discretion and subject to dealer's applicable terms and conditions. See your dealer for full details. Any part-exchange allowance must be claimed prior to completion of purchase. Retrospective claims will not be accepted. No more than one allowance per vehicle bought. Offers do not apply to vehicles purchased under the Hyundai Affinity scheme, are subject to availability and may be withdrawn or varied at any time. All figures correct at time of going to press. Warranty only available on new cars purchased in the UK and sourced from Hyundai Motor UK Limited through its authorised dealers. See your local dealer for full warranty terms and conditions.

Fuel consumption in MPG (l/100km) for Hyundai range: Urban 52.3 (5.4) – 18.7 (15.1), Extra Urban 74.3 (3.8) – 38.2 (7.4), Combined 64.2 (4.4) – 27.7 (10.2), CO₂ Emissions 116 – 245 g/km.



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The official fuel consumption figures in mpg (l/100km) for the Mazda range: Urban 18.0 (15.7) - 55.4 (5.1), Extra Urban 31.0 (9.1) - 80.7 (3.5), Combined 24.6 (11.5) - 68.9 (4.3). CO₂ emissions (g/km) 299 - 107.

Retail sales only. Subject to availability at participating Mazda dealers for new vehicles contracted and registered between 1 July 2009 and 30 September 2009. *0% finance available on Mazda Conditional Sale on all Mazda2, all-new Mazda3 and Mazda6 models. Offer not available in conjunction with Government Scrappage Scheme. Finance subject to status, terms and conditions apply. Applicants must be 18 or over. Guarantees/indemnities may be required. Mazda Financial Services RHI ISR. Model shown: Mazda2 1.5 3dr Sport. OTR price £11,995. All-new Mazda3 1.6 5dr TS². OTR price £15,500. Mazda6 2.2D 5dr Sport. OTR price £21,410. Models shown feature optional mica/pearlescent paint (£385). On the road price includes 15% VAT, number plates, delivery, 12 months' road fund licence, 1st registration fee, 3 year or 60,000 mile warranty and 3 years' European Roadside Assistance. Details correct at time of going to print.

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**Government Scrappage scheme applies to vehicles over 10 years old, registered before September 1999 (T registered or older). For assistance to qualify of Partners scheme call free on 0800 146039. Current offers end 30th September 2009. Government Scrappage subject to availability of Government support funds. Astra price includes current £1500 customer saving.



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Hyundai Santa Fe –
classy seven-seater
and great value

SUV sales are back on the road

SPORTS Utility Vehicles (SUVs), crossovers and 4x4s were the hottest property on the motor market before the recession and worries about global warming.

But people still like the styling so, after a dip, the sector seems to be polarising into affordable and economical SUVs – some with front-wheel drive only to save fuel – and proper 4x4s. *Here's a top selection...*

BMW: has jumped to the fore in 4x4, first with the X5 – great to drive on road – and the slightly smaller X3. An X1 baby is on the way.

CHEVROLET: offers value of course with the butch 5-7-seat Captiva, but it is also a classy effort that drives well and feels solidly made.

CITROËN: offers the smart looking C-Crosser, a five-seater with two children's seats

behind. More SUV than 4x4, it is derived from Mitsubishi's Outlander but powered by a Peugeot-Citroën diesel.

DAIHATSU: offers the excellent and highly capable Terios small 4x4 for those on a tight budget. Brand's reliability is built-in.

HYUNDAI: the Korean maker's 4x4 models are some of the best bargains of the range, from the compact Tucson to mid-range seven-seat Santa Fe.



MERCEDES-BENZ: the second generation M-Class has emerged as a serious off-roader and there is even a stretched seven-seat GL-Class derivative.

MITSUBISHI: 4x4 is Mitsubishi's forte, from the legendary Shogun proper off-road series to the Outlander crossover – part estate, part SUV with 5+2 seating.

SEAT: the Spanish marque has created an unusual niche model, by adding 4x4 to the sporty Altea MPV to create the seriously capable Freetrack.

Skoda Octavia Scout – chunky high-riding estate offers some off-road ability

SKODA: the Czech marque offers 4x4 versions of its Octavia estate, including the high-riding Scout, but also launches the rugged Yeti SUV on 17 September.

SUZUKI: offers affordable and genuine 4x4 ability from the market's cheapest off-roader, the little Jimny, to the smart yet rugged mid-size Grand Vitara.

TOYOTA: has an SUV icon in the RAV4 and added the smaller Urban Cruiser this year, but the world's biggest car firm also has the legendary Land Cruiser series for proper off-roading.

VAUXHALL: if you can buy it at the right price, the Antara is a surprisingly classy SUV inside and out.

VW: Volkswagen never does anything half-heartedly, and its offering of the luxurious yet competent off-roading Touareg flagship as well as the rugged mid-range Tiguan makes it a serious player in the market.

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Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO₂ emissions (g/km). Cruze 1.8 LT: Urban – 30.4 (9.3), Extra-urban – 53.3 (5.3), Combined – 41.5 (6.8). CO₂ emissions 159g/km.

*Price, including scrappage, of £10,245 relates to Cruze 1.6 S model only. Vehicle shown Cruze 1.8 LT and metallic paint available at extra cost of £400. The savings are against current man. rec. price and available on UK supplied vehicles ordered and registered before 30th September 2009. Prices correct at time of press. At participating retailers only. Not available in conjunction with any other offers. † £2,000 Government Scrappage Allowance is dependent on the vehicle meeting the full Government Scrappage incentive criteria. The Government Scrappage payment applies to vehicles registered on or before 31.08.99 when traded-in against a new vehicle subject to conditions and whilst Government funding applies. Offers apply to new vehicles ordered or registered between 01.09.09 and 30.09.09, and are subject to status, eligibility, terms and conditions. (Chev/78919)

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**CARDY**

CAMPAIGNERS have hit out at the impact that next week's 2p rise in fuel duty will have on firms, warning some may be forced out of business.

The price of fuel has risen by almost 16 per cent in the last six months alone, but the 2p per litre duty increase on Tuesday, September 1, will coincide with another hike in prices sparked by the rising cost of oil and wholesale cost of fuel.

The price of fuel has shot up by more

'Greenwash' anger as firms brace for fuel duty increase

than 25 per cent since 2007, with an average car tank of petrol costing £13 more than it did two years ago.

Drivers are already bracing themselves

for the end of the Government's temporary VAT cut in January. Jo Tanner of the Freight Transport Association, which has its headquarters in Tunbridge Wells,

said: "Fuel costs amount to almost a third of transport costs and Kent businesses are already reeling from two fuel duty rises in the last nine months, another 2p per litre in September could push them over the edge."

"The environmental argument amounts to little more than 'greenwash' as, unlike motorists who have the choice of public transport, trucks have to be driven if we want our shelves stocked."

Weather eye on bottom line



ANIMAL MAGIC: Grazing in the sunshine at Port Lympne, which has enjoyed a good year

MILLIONS of pounds are lost in the county's tourism industry every time a weather forecast is incorrect.

That revelation has led to one organisation recommending visitors call ahead for an on-the-spot weather check, rather than heeding national forecasts, in the days leading up to a weekend break.

A report by Visit Britain confirmed the credit crunch had led to more families enjoying a 'staycation' this year rather than opting for a package holiday abroad.

However, the predicted £17 billion generated by those holidaying at home this year is hit whenever bad weather is predicted by the Met Office and visitors opt to stay at home.

Bob O'Connor, managing director of the Howletts and Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks, said: "We are at the mercy of the Met Office's often inaccurate predictions."

"Come rain or shine, we find our wild animal parks are either fit to bursting or completely empty, depending on what the weather forecast that day has been."

"It's particularly frustrating when all our animals are enjoying clear blue skies and glorious temperatures – and no-one is here to see them."

By **ALEX HOAD**

alex.hoad@kosmedia.co.uk

Howletts, near Canterbury, and Port Lympne, near Hythe, have enjoyed their best year to date, with revenue up 10 per cent in the first six months of 2009.

Sandra Matthews-Marsh, chief executive of Visit Kent, suggested tourists should check with a more local opinion on the ground if poor weather is predicted – though added there were plenty of attractions to entertain visitors even if the weather was bad.

She said: "Visitors to Kent should not be put off by predictions of bad weather but should check with staff at the Visitor Information Centre in the town they are planning to visit to see what the weather is actually like."

Attractions

"In June, Kent and Cornwall had the driest weather in the country. But even if it's raining don't be deterred, there is lots to do if the weather is poor. A guide to the top 10 things to do in Kent in the rain can be found on www.visitkent.co.uk.

"These include great ideas such as bringing history to life at some of the great museums and unusual attractions such as Quex House and Gardens and the Powell-Cotton Museum in Thanet, a steam train journey on the Kent and East Sussex Railway at Tenterden, or a visit to the Canterbury Tales."

A Met Office spokesman said: "We call each forecast as we see it. Sometimes the forecast goes wrong."

"The weather is always changing and can develop in ways we would not expect. But we get it right more often than we get it wrong. We are right something like 80 per cent of the time."

He added: "An accusation that's been levelled at us many times is that we err on the side of caution, but there's no evidence to support that."

He said there had been massive investment in new technologies to improve the accuracy of forecasts.



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By **ALEX HOAD**

alex.hoad@kosmedia.co.uk

POSITIVE vibes are flowing through the local business scene, with evidence pointing towards the end of the recession.

New figures from the Confederation of British Industry's industrial trend survey show manufacturing and service suppliers in the South East are optimistic that the worst is over.

And a national survey found the UK economy is expected to grow in the third quarter and business confidence is at its highest level for more than a year.

The Institute of Chartered Accountants' index of business confidence rose to 4.8 at the end of June, from minus 28.2 at the end of March.

The institute predicts the UK economy will grow by 0.5 per cent in the third quarter, after the survey of more than 1,000 chartered accountants in the UK.

Japan, France and Germany emerged from recession in the second quarter, between April and June, with the US economy also approaching recovery between July and September.

Frazer Thompson, chairman of the Kent Institute of Directors, said: "The very worst of the recession appears to be over from a business perspective."

"From a social and political perspective, there is much yet to come as the wave of unemployment starts to bite and the consequences for public services start to impact on our daily lives."

"The recovery is going to be long and hard and will be led by good businesses and Kent's long tradition of excellent entrepreneurs."

Mr Thompson added: "I do think the recession has changed consumer attitudes that will help us in the longer term. In particular, the growing awareness of the economic and social need to support local businesses has never been more important or relevant."

The CBI survey showed manufacturers in

Brighter outlook dispels the gloom



RAY OF LIGHT: Predictions of third quarter growth have been welcomed by industry

the South East endured another difficult month, but after months of de-stocking, the outlook for production in the next quarter is at its highest rate in more than a year.

Business levels in the services sector remain below normal, but have improved in the past three quarters.

The CBI's South East regional director,

Malcolm Hyde, said: "Expectations for manufacturing output over the coming three months are the least negative in more than a year."

"This is partly because many firms have run their stock levels down quite aggressively over the summer, so some manufacturers are now looking to raise production."

"It looks like de-stocking in the manufacturing sector may be coming to an end, which offers a further sign that the UK economy is starting to stabilise."

Despite figures showing more manufacturers expecting output to fall over the next quarter than there are predicting an increase, it is the least negative prediction since June, 2008.

Mr Hyde revealed there was also mild optimism in the service sector, despite tough trading conditions.

He said: "Service sector firms have had to cut the price of their services in order to compete for business, and this has pushed down profitability further over the last three months."

"However, service sector activity has not been anywhere near as weak as in recent quarters and things are starting to look up, particularly for business and professional firms."

"These companies have seen an increase in business, albeit modest, for the first time in over a year and they are now feeling more optimistic."

He added: "Consumers are still reining in spending on services, but no longer at rapid rates. And across the service sector, prospects for business expansion and investment are the least gloomy for some time."

He also revealed employment in the consumer services sector was stable but had fallen in business and professional services for the fifth successive quarter – though not by as much as has previously been seen.

Women: what's stopping you?

FEMALES interested in becoming their own boss and wanting to earn extra money can learn how to turn their business ideas into reality.

Business Link's Enterprise Gateway Service is offering Kent women advice and support from a team of three specialist advisers in a service funded by the South East England Development Agency (Seeda).

Betsy Aidinyantz has run her own business and is on the board of trustees of the Kent Children's Fund Network. She is based in Folkestone and will offer help to women in south Kent. Sandra Smith, who has extensive experience in encouraging women to explore self-employment, is based in Dover and will also cover Canterbury and Thanet.

Amanda Hathaway, a trainer and coach, offers both phone advice and a walk-in service on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Enterprise Centre for Women, in Chatham High Street.

Jason Martin, senior director for the Enterprise

Gateway Service, said: "We work with women who want to become their own boss, to generate extra income, do something for their community and regain their independence."

"Our service is free, independent and professional. We are here to help bring ideas to life. People can pick up the phone and tell us what they're trying to do and we can guide them to the workshops, experts and advice they need."

Mr Martin said the team was busier than ever: "We have been able to help all kinds of businesses. Whatever the idea, we take it and the client seriously."

To find out more, call 0845 600 9006. Business Link is holding a free all-day event, entitled What's Stopping You? solely for women on Thursday, November 12, at the Ramada Hotel, Maidstone, from 8.45am. It will provide a networking opportunity as well as offering presentations and seminars. Visit www.whatstoppingyouevents.co.uk or call 01732 878 007 to book a place.

Eurostar pride at reaching milestone

EUROSTAR was preparing to welcome its 100 millionth customer this week, less than 15 years after its first service.

The high-speed operator expected the milestone to be reached on the 9am train from London to Paris on Friday, August 28.

Services began on November 14, 1994, and since its launch the firm has established a 75 per cent market share in the London-to-Paris and London-to-Brussels travel industries, overtaking short-haul flights as the most popular option.

Chief executive Richard Brown



NEW GENERATION: Eurostar

said: "We are proud and delighted to be ready to carry our 100th million traveller. Eurostar has created a generation who have changed their lives

because of our service. The number of expats living in London, Paris and Brussels continues to grow – indeed London is France's sixth largest city."

"Before Eurostar the only way to reach the Continent was by boat or plane. We are preparing for our 15th anniversary in November and we are looking forward to welcoming the challenges with on-rail competition from next year."

"We are confident our knowledge of operating across three countries and through the Channel Tunnel sets us in good stead for our next 100 million travellers."



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By **PAT CRAWFORD**

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

REFERENCES to 'food security' continually crop up in the media and if familiarity does indeed breed contempt, then it's certainly true of this particular phrase.

Banded about on a daily basis, its meaning has become diluted and adulterated to a bread-and-water significance that has little bearing on the big issues the term embraces.

What do we mean when we speak of food security? Various definitions have been proffered but none better than this, from 1992: "When all people at all times have both physical and economic access to sufficient food to meet their dietary needs for a productive and healthy life."

At that time – although scientists were issuing warnings of future threats – the problem generally related to famines resulting from either crop failures or conflict in Third World countries. The developed nations were rarely directly affected.

Since then the situation has got much worse. Predictions about the global population indicate that by 2050 there will be more than nine billion mouths to feed. Meanwhile, people in Third World countries are consuming more meat and animal-related products, putting new pressures on stock production.

And, although climate change and associated rising temperatures are a boon for some forms of agriculture, they are a hindrance for others. At the same time, as the ice caps melt, rising sea levels are resulting in the loss of valuable agricultural land.

People and businesses in flood zones will have to be relocated, putting additional pressure on land. Here in Kent we are luckier than most. Despite predictions that we will

Kent's growing role in providing 'food security'



BOUNTIFUL: Our fruit is among the best

lose some land as sea levels rise, we enjoy a temperate climate that is relatively beneficial to the growing of crops and raising of

livestock. In addition, the county is home to some of the best farmers and growers in the UK. In recent times, demand for regionally produced food has increased. This is helping restore some of the confidence farmers and growers lost when coming to terms with the unfavourable EU common agricultural policy and cheap imports from countries with lower production costs.

For long-term food security, it surely makes sense to back regional producers even more. Give them the optimism and courage for the expansion that will undoubtedly be needed in the not too distant future.

Tourism is big in Kent but there is plenty of room for growth. Heritage sites and historic houses aside, the countryside (85 per cent of Kent is designated 'rural') plays a fundamental part in why people visit our county.

It's worth bearing in mind that it's a largely managed environment – the county isn't known as the Garden of England for nothing.

We are the largest producer of fruit in the country. But we also have an amazing diversity of farming and this is reflected in the attractive patchwork of our countryside.

It's worth considering that buying regionally produced food helps promote future food security, helps the county's economy and helps maintain the appearance of our countryside. In business terms, all important factors.

By **LIZ RULE**Pharon Independent
Financial Advisers Ltd

SMALL employers with no pension provision for staff should look at the website for the Personal Account Delivery Authority (Pada) at www.padeliveryauthority.org.uk.

The website makes it clear the economic situation is not expected to have an impact on the implementation of personal accounts. It states: "Pensions are a long-term investment and the position of the financial markets is likely to change many times between now and when the scheme is introduced and beyond. Pada is on track to enable introduction in time for the onset of employer duties in 2012."

Encouragingly, Pada has said it does not want personal accounts to have any negative effect on employers already running staff pension schemes, stating: "The scheme is designed to complement existing provision. Rather than diminishing the market for pensions, the reform programme will be increasing access."

The scheme is designed specifically for low-to-moderate earners who don't have access to workplace provision. Employers can choose the scheme they believe is most appropriate for employees. However, there are new minimum requirements. This means whichever scheme employers choose, it will need to meet these criteria. Personal accounts could be used in a number of ways. Employers may decide different approaches and schemes suit different staff.

For example, personal accounts could be:

- The sole scheme for employers with no current provision;
- An entry scheme for some, particularly for sectors with high turnover, to provide flexibility for workers who change jobs frequently and to save on admin costs.
- A foundation scheme for later entry into an employer's existing pension scheme.

I suggest bookmarking the site and keeping up to date – 2012 will come round fast.

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Beating a path to your door

OUR friend, a local small business owner, recently set his business up on Google Maps (more on that next week) and has had two customers so far that he can directly attribute to his entry.

His business is small and two customers in a reasonably short time is a great result. He has a background in marketing and is very disciplined about asking where people heard about him (which of his marketing efforts are working). One of these new customers explained she'd 'Googled' him, then went on to explain that this is how she finds all her local suppliers and finished along the lines of: "Doesn't everyone nowadays?"

Not everyone does use Google nowadays, but I would guess the majority do. Certainly all our friends and business friends would go to the web first.

So what does that mean for local businesses? It means that having a web presence and then optimising it for local searches – if you want local customers – is paramount.

When you define the keywords that you want to optimise your website for, your location and some geographic words should be included. But, how do you then use them on your website?

There are a number of ways: add them into your meta data (website code); ensure that they are included in the content on each page if possible; include local articles and information in your fresh content.

As we've already said, the meta keywords are less important than they were but you should still include local keywords consistent with the content on each page.

You may want to include your location information in some of your meta descriptions, which is the bit Google returns when you appear in a search.

Remember, though, that the meta description needs to be consistent with the on-page content, otherwise you will disappoint both the search engines and your potential website visitors.

All businesses should include this information on their 'contact us' page but, if you have business premises where people can visit, you have an opportunity to have a 'location' or 'how to find us'



page and maybe even one about your premises and what your customers can find on site – all good opportunities to add your location into your meta data.

The other piece of meta data that is key is your title tag – the wording that comes up in the bar that shows at the very top of your browser.

Far too many local websites just have their company name on every page. The title tag should be different for every page and should include some of your keywords, so on your 'contact us' page you could have a title tag of something like 'contact us at our New Romney offices', which has given you a way to mention a local keyword in a really helpful place while being completely natural as far as the search engines are concerned.

Have a look on each page of your website and see if there are opportunities that you are missing to mention local geographic keywords.

Small business expert and online specialist JO DODDS offer simple advice on how to improve your local online marketing. Here she discusses weaving geographic keywords and local information into your website content



The first obvious opportunity is to add a strapline – 'Providing quality socks in Kent' – or your phone number with the area – 'Call Anytown 12345' – on each page. Make sure you include details of the area you cover on your home page and on your 'about us' page, if you have one.

In researching this article, I had a look at a number of local businesses' sites and found some that don't mention where they are anywhere except their 'contact us' page, which is criminal for marketing purposes, never mind search engine optimisation.

If you have testimonials on your website, ensure you include the location of the customer in each case. You could also create a page

that talks about previous projects/existing customers (where appropriate), which should give you a natural opportunity to mention locations in your area.

On your 'contact us/how to find us' page make sure that you don't just put your address and a link to a map hosted elsewhere.

You should add directions to your premises, which apart from being helpful for people who prefer directions to maps, also gives you an opportunity to throw in a

few local place names.

Most website owners really underestimate the power of adding local content to their websites.

Articles about local attractions, the local area or local events are generally not core to the products and services offered by a local company, but they do provide a way to naturally include local keywords on your website over and above those related to your business offering.

And don't believe that this is a bit too much about trying to improve your search engine rankings.

People like to see local information and from a marketing point of view you can really help customers to know, like and trust you by showing an interest in local information and events.

People really like to buy local – and what better way to show that you are a real local business than by providing useful local information for your website visitors?

MORTGAGE RATES

RT: Rate type R%: Rate percentage L: Loan U: Until
OD: Other details

FIXED

WOOLWICH

RT: FIXED R%: 4.29% L: 70% U: 31/10/2011
OD: £1,329

MORTGAGE BOX ITL

RT: FIXED R%: 4.89% L: 75% U: 31/03/2011
OD: £1,184

MARSDEN

RT: FIXED R%: 5.69% L: 80% U: 30/10/2011
OD: £1,298

ABBEEY

RT: FIXED R%: 4.18% L: 70% U: 02/11/2011
OD: £1,030

OTHER

NATIONWIDE

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.38% L: 75% U: 3 YEARS
OD: £1,015

ABBEEY

RT: TRACKER R%: 2.99% L: 70% U: 3 YEARS
OD: £1,030

MARSDEN

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.09% L: 75% U: 30/11/2011
OD: £1,123


ALLIANCE & LEICESTER

RT: TRACKER R%: 3.09% L: 70% U: 2 YEARS
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COUPLE AGED 35

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ZURICH	£89.59
AEGON SE	£90.03
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COUPLE AGED 30

AVIVA	£56.08
FRIENDS PRVDNT	£58.52
BUPA	£60.68
AXA	£61.08
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COUPLE AGED 40

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Timeline

Kent on Sunday sport takes a look back at the county's sporting action of yesteryear



1909 100 YEARS AGO: DOVER Week got off to an unfortunate start when Kent's game with Yorkshire was abandoned after barely two hours of play, during which the White Rose county had made 109 for 1. (Playing at the furthest venue in the country from Yorkshire may have been a psychological ploy designed to make the visitors as miserable as possible at the thought of incurring additional travelling costs).

And on the subject of saving money, Sittingbourne joined the Kent League, hoping to save £150 in travel and hotel expenses after leaving the South Eastern League.

Chatham were set to play in the Kent League again after an absence of several seasons, but Ashford Railway Works FC disbanded their second team which was running at a loss, and despite capturing Fordham from Herne Bay they were hit by the retirement of two players, left-half Holdstock and keeper Elliott.

The Tonbridge and District Wednesday League welcomed several new clubs: Tunbridge Wells Half-Holiday and Tonbridge Half-Holiday, (raising the not entirely intriguing prospect of a Half-Holiday derby) plus Kippington and Neewton Wanderers and Edenbridge.

The Tunbridge Wells League announced it now had 33 clubs, making it the largest in Kent outside the metropolitan area.



1959 50 YEARS AGO: ALFRED Waterfield of West Malling made up for years of disappointment by winning the Ashford Valley Hunt Cup at Tenterden Gymkhana.

Waterfield, 17, had saved for years to get a horse and regularly came last at events, but his perseverance finally paid off when he claimed his first major prize – after an eight-and-a-half hour journey to the venue with his horse, Moonraker, and two ponies.

KCCC announced its fixtures for 1960, and confirmed Folkestone and Gillingham would miss out.

The move was condemned, but secretary Eric Rowcroft said: "It is not a paying proposition to play at Gillingham. There are a large number of people in the Medway Towns area, but it appears they must be working when we play there."

Mayor Harold Smith replied: "There are 180,000 people in the Medway Towns and they deserve a fair crack of the whip."

Shepway FC were forced to disband after four key players were called up for National Service.



1984 25 YEARS AGO: KENT were sweating on the fitness of Terry Alderman and Alan Knott ahead of the Nat West final with Middlesex, who included boyhood Kent fan and future 'analyst' Simon Hughes in their squad.

Gillingham beat Colchester 3-2 in the first round of the Milk Cup, but wasted a host of chances to put the tie to bed and needed a last-minute winner from John Leslie to give them an advantage going into the second leg.

Mark Weatherley put Gillingham ahead after a Dave Mehmet corner and Mehmet added a superb second from a ridiculous angle after a one-two with Terry Cochrane.

But Keith Bowen pulled one back and the former Arsenal and Manchester United defender Stewart Houston drew the Essex side level.



HURT: Knott



Racing on Euro circuit gives Doran the belief to beat rallycross' best

By TOM HOWARD

KENT'S Liam Doran believes skills learnt racing against the sport's best drivers will guide him to victory in the British Rallycross Championship at Lydden Hill on Bank Holiday Monday.

A bumper crowd is expected to flock to the Dover circuit this weekend for an action-packed race schedule, which will see drivers from the British and Belgian Championships do battle on the one-mile circuit.

Sittingbourne's Doran, who is third in the standings, has been a title contender for the majority of the season, winning two races.

After racing against the sport's best drivers in the European Championship this year, the 22-year-old is feeling confident about igniting his title hopes at his home circuit.

He said: "There is still a long way to go in

this championship so anything can happen.

"At the moment my father [Pat] is leading the series, but I am hoping to get back to winning ways after racing in Europe.

"I think racing against the best drivers has improved my race craft, so hopefully I can get another win."

With the British Rallycross season reaching its halfway point this weekend, Doran is already pondering his future in the series.

Regular

After a successful debut in this year's European Championships he is hoping to complete a full season in the series next term.

He said: "We are trying to put something together for next year. Racing at that level is ideally where we want to be. It is a real

challenge and is like the Premier League of rallycross."

The Bank Holiday event is to be broadcast live on British television for the first time since the early 1990s on Motors TV.

Lydden Hill, which will run the British Championship for the next three years, is hoping this will become a regular occurrence.

Lydden Hill managing director Amy Doran said: "The sport is really picking up the pace at the moment. I think with the cost of racing increasing, people are starting to turn to rallycross."

"The television company have shown their faith in the sport by giving us four hours of live coverage and we hope in the future we can take on the likes of the British Touring Car Championship."

Also representing the county at the event will be Ramsgate's Adam Smith, Canterbury's Steve Cork and Folkestone's Adrian Love, who will be in action in the Stockhatch class.

Teams try-out on new state-of-the-art pitch

BLACKHEATH Rugby Club unveiled their new state-of-the-art all-weather pitch with a game against Rosslyn Park on Saturday, writes Tom Howard.

The new facility, which was partly funded by the National League One club, the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and Greenwich Council, has been two years in the planning.

It was unveiled by RFU vice-president Richard Appleby and Mayor of Greenwich Allan McCarthy yesterday before Blackheath and Rosslyn Park took to the field for the pitch's first game.

The Well Hall pitch meets the standards set by the RFU and has the potential to host Test matches. It could also play a part as a site for the London 2012 Paralympics.

Project manager Rick Whiteman said: "It's a third generation rubber crumb-based pitch. That means it has far more give than previous sand-based surfaces and players like it because it reduces the likelihood of injury."

The club have already been contacted by Millwall Football Club and Saracens Rugby Club who have both expressed an interest in training at the ground.

Picture: HELEN WATSON



TRYING OUT: Players get a feel for the new pitch

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Stimson hopes it won't be a case of one in, but one out

By **DAVID PRITCHARD**

GILLINGHAM have not given up hope on signing Chris Dickson and are preparing one final approach for the Charlton striker before the transfer window closes on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old has been top of Gills boss Mark Stimson's wish-list all summer. The Addicks originally declared Dickson was not for sale at any price, but have softened their stance in recent weeks, with manager Phil Parkinson now ready to do a deal if the fee is sufficient.

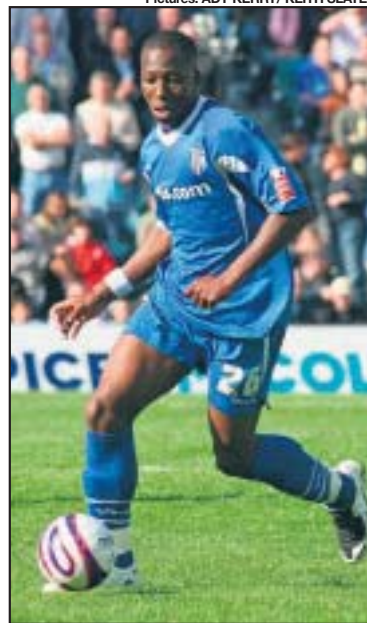
Before this weekend's games Dickson had not featured for Charlton first team this season and had not even made the substitutes' bench since the opening day. The lack of football has not escaped Stimson's attention and the Gills boss hinted to Kent on Sunday a last-ditch move was on the cards.

"There might be one last throw of the dice," he said. "We'll wait until the weekend gets out of the way and then see if we are going to attack any area. If we are, we will."

The window closes at 5pm on Tuesday and traditionally the final few days see the most activity as the deadline accelerates negotiations and forces through deals. Gillingham signed Simeon Jackson with hours to spare from Rushden & Diamonds in January, 2008, and would dearly love to repeat the trick.

Stimson admits his squad would be short of goals if they failed to sign Dickson, the only striker the club are willing to recruit on a permanent deal. There are other targets who could be pursued with a view to a temporary stint when the loan window opens next month, but they are seen as secondary options.

While the Gills will be attempting to beat the



Pictures: ADY KERRY/ KEITH SLATER

GOAL-GETTERS: Mark Stimson hopes to pair Simeon Jackson with Chris Dickson (right)

deadline to sign Dickson, they will also be desperately hoping they do not receive an offer for Simeon Jackson. The Canada international has attracted interest from a host of scouts so far this season, who watched him top off an excellent all-round performance with a goal against Blackburn on Tuesday night.

Stimson admits it would be a massive blow if they lost their top scorer.

He said: "You get excited and want to build

something that can move forward and be successful, but if we were to lose that part of the jigsaw it would be huge.

"He's a natural finisher and he's only going to get better because of his age but sometimes the big boys come and take it away from you.

"I hope they've watched and thought 'leave him until Christmas, let him have six months and see if he can score any more goals and then maybe do something' – fingers crossed that happens."



SURE SHOT: Ashley Jackson on target

Mixed fortunes for hockey pair on England duty

ASHLEY Jackson and Natalie Seymour played their part as both England sides performed well at the EuroHockey Nations Championships.

England's men and women reached the last four at their respective tournaments in Amsterdam, sealing their automatic qualification for next year's World Cup in India.

In the men's tournament, Jackson carried on his prolific form in front of goal.

The Chatham-born midfielder, who turned 22 this week, scored four goals in two warm-up games against India earlier this month.

He was on target in the opening victory against Austria and draw with Germany before notching a hat-trick as England romped to an 8-2 win against Belgium which saw them top their group.

Jackson's five goals made him the men's tournament's second top scorer going into England's semi-final with the Netherlands, which took place after Kent on Sunday went to press.

The medal matches are played tomorrow. England's men have only ever reached the competition's final once, in 1987.

Seymour, playing in her first major international tournament, started every game as England finished second in their pool.

The 22-year-old, who plays club hockey for Canterbury ladies, was in the side which beat Russia and Azerbaijan either side of a heavy defeat to the Netherlands.

Their hopes of reaching the final for the first time since 1991 were dashed in the semi-final, when they lost to reigning champions Germany on a golden goal.

Seymour was expected to play in yesterday's play-off against Spain, where England were looking to win a third successive bronze medal at the tournament.

• Log on to www.kentnews.co.uk to find out how Seymour and Jackson got on as the tournament reaches its climax.

Stupples back in the swing after Welsh win



WIN: Karen Stupples

KAREN Stupples returns to competitive action this weekend for the first time since ending her trophy drought in Wales earlier this month.

The 36-year-old won her first title in five years at the Wales Ladies Championship of Europe three weeks ago.

Having returned to the USA, where the Deal golfer now lives, Stupples is competing in the Safeway Classic in Oregon, which finishes today.

After missing out on selection for last week's Solheim Cup, Stupples is

hoping the extra rest will be an advantage as she looks to capitalise on the momentum gained in Wales.

She said: "I'd like to have a win out in America as well this season.

"Winning in Wales was obviously a good step in the right direction, now I'll be trying to finish the year strongly. My view for the season was to try and peak in time for the Solheim Cup, instead I've had a week off so maybe it will work out for the best."

On the Ladies European Tour, Gravesend's Claire Aitken looked to

be heading for an early trip home from the Finnair Masters.

The 23-year-old enjoyed her best finish of the season last time out in Wales when she finished in a share of 57th place.

Any hope of building on the performance was largely undone by Friday's first round in Helsinki. Aitken shot a five-over par round of 76, giving her a mountain to climb to avoid the cut after the yesterday's second round.

Dani Masters was an unused reserve at the tournament.

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With the London 2012 Olympics just around the corner, **FRED ATKINS** takes a look at how a new cycle park in Kent could unearth an Olympic star of the future

A WORLD-CLASS sports facility costing more than £11 million could be built on land near the A2 at Gravesend, after Kent County Council granted planning permission for a 43-hectare cycling park.

If the project goes ahead, the park, situated between the old and new A2 carriageways between Downs Road and Tollgate Junction, will be three times the size of the Olympic Velopark at Hackney.

The park would include a 2.8-kilometre track for road racing and time trialling, a network of mountain bike trails and an international standard BMX track.

Work is set to start on the facility in January according to KCC's project manager Laurence Tricker.

Coaching

"We have had this vision of the possibility of using this land for cycling for many years, ever since the carriageways of the A2 trunk road were moved southward," he said.

"Now that we have planning approval the first phase will start in 2010, and should be completed by March, 2011, and then the next phases should be completed in 2012."

The scheme was originally the brainchild of Tony Mack of Gravesend Cycling Club, though it has evolved considerably from the provisional suggestion of a time-trial circuit and a velodrome.

British Cycling, the sport's governing body in the UK, will hold coaching sessions from a new pavilion.

A separate park, with open access, would open between Pepperhill and Marling Cross. The majority of the park will be free to the public, but for the central core of the site, which includes the BMX track, skateboard park and race track, an entrance fee will be charged.

...but scale of project is reliant on government

THE precise fate of the A2 cycling park lies in the hands of Sport England, the government body charged with funding grassroots sports.

Some kind of cycle park will definitely be constructed, but it may be significantly less ambitious than the world-class facility unveiled this week if government funding is refused.

Funds worth £5 million are in place from Kent County Council, the Homes and Community Agency and British Cycling.

This would be enough for a scaled-down version of the project, but KCC has also applied for a £6m grant from Sport England's Sustainable Facilities Fund, to be spread over the next three years.

However, the entire fund is worth just £10m per year and the A2 park will have to see off competition from a number of rival bidders to get the sizeable chunk they need for the development.

Project manager Laurence Tricker says he is "optimistic" the bid will be accepted, but says contingency plans are in place if the application is rejected and that alternative sources of revenue are being explored.

"Phase one would be constructed, which would be part of the pavilion and some changing rooms," he said.

"But we wouldn't have enough for the café, all the changing rooms, some of the community sports facilities and the BMX track. We'll just have to cut our cloth to suit."

Sport England will announce its decision by the end of October.

Vision for top-class cycle park on track to be £11m reality



CIRCLE ROUTE: An artist's impression of the A2 cycle park (left) which would be three times the size of Hackney's Olympic Velopark

Champion riders hope more will take up sport

OLYMPIC champion Jamie Staff has backed plans to build a new multi-purpose cycling facility near Gravesend, saying the scheme would be "fantastic" and go some way to addressing the disadvantages local cyclists face when pitted against Continental rivals.

"This is fantastic news for sport, for cycling, for the South East and for budding cyclists," he told Kent on Sunday.

"It's facilities that give people the opportunity to express themselves and do what they will with it; whether it be to have fun or to train to be an Olympian."

The 36-year-old Ashford rider, who began his cycling career as a BMX rider and used to race at Buckmore Park before winning multiple world and Olympic medals as a track rider, believes the park can play a vital role in unearthing future Olympic talent.

He said: "This new facility will encourage youngsters to take up the sport and allow them to do it within a safe environment."

Staff believes British riders currently suffer from a dearth of facilities by comparison to their European rivals.

"We have a long way to go until we have the facilities like on the Continent, but with the construction of the Velopark in Hackney and now this project in Gravesend, we are getting one step closer," he said.

"Hopefully the people with the power to make these projects happen will see the huge benefits these projects have on health and on the economy and decide to carry on investing in our future."

The scheme was also backed by David Millar, the former British champion and Tour de France yellow jersey wearer.

"The A2 Activity Park looks to be a fantastic initiative in the perfect location," he said.

"It is exactly what we need to be doing to



RIDE ON: Jamie Staff (left) and David Millar

encourage the youth to get on their bikes, both for finding bright new talent in the country and for the sheer enjoyment that cycling brings with it."

Dave Mackey of the Kent Cycles racing team, agreed that a traffic-free circuit could bring a new influx of riders into the sport.

"It's absolutely brilliant because it caters for all ages in a safe environment," he said.

"You have to be 18 to race on the open roads so it's extremely important. Parents will be quite happy to have their children race on this kind of circuit. They can learn how to ride in a bunch and hopefully it'll have a knock-on effect in terms of bringing people into the sport."

Mackey says this part of the county has been lacking a closed-circuit facility since the demise of racing at Brands Hatch.

"You used to be able to race at Brands," he said. "Now there's only one race a year there, but when I was a juvenile you could race there every Thursday night and there'd be up to 250 riders there. I think that would happen again."

Plans are bad news for new Fleet stadium

WHILE the proposed cycle park is good news for Kent cyclists, the development is set to scupper Ebbsfleet United's new stadium bid, writes **Tom Howard**.

The north Kent club also earmarked the site on the A2 corridor for the new stadium they have been striving for during the last six years.

Fleet put forward a proposal to build a new stadium alongside the cycle park, but Gravesend Borough Council and Kent County Council declined to support the bid.

Fleet chairman Duncan Holt said: "We are extremely disappointed. Moving to a new stadium is crucial for the club's future. We have ambitions of moving into the Football League and the only way to do that would be via a new stadium."

The club attracts an average gate of 1,200, one of the lowest in the Blue Square Premier League, but estimate their following would increase by 50 per cent if they were to move into a new ground. At the moment the club lease their Stonebridge Road ground and the agreement is coming towards an end. Holt revealed the club are actively heading towards extending the agreement.

The club are also planning to meet with Gravesend council leader Mike Smelling next week to discuss the club's hopes for a new stadium.

SHORT GOODBYE:

It is hoped the departing Ryan McLaren could return to Kent for next season's revamped Twenty20

Picture: ADY KERRY

Departing McLaren could be back soon

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT have confirmed that Ryan McLaren will terminate his Kolpak agreement at the end of the season to focus on playing international cricket for South Africa.

However, Kent on Sunday understands the club are trying to negotiate a deal so the 26-year-old will return to the county next season as one of two overseas players employed to play in the new revamped Twenty20 competition.

The bowling all-rounder, who may not play again before the end of the season due to a side strain suffered in the County Championship game against Derbyshire last month, has notified Cricket South Africa of his intention to relinquish his Kolpak status with a year left on his contract and will be available for international selection from the beginning of October.

Kent chairman George Kennedy said:

South African all-rounder off to his homeland but he may return for Twenty20

"I'm 99 per cent sure he will be leaving as a Kolpak player, but I'd like to think we could get him back for part of the season."

McLaren is also set to play in the Champions League for South African state side the Diamond Eagles – a competition Kent missed out on after failing to qualify for the Twenty20 Cup final.

Proteas

He follows Charl Langeveldt in making himself available to South Africa again after a spell in county cricket with Derbyshire.

Gerald Majola, CSA chief executive, said: "It is good news indeed for South African

cricket that all-rounder Ryan McLaren has decided to forfeit the final year of his contract with Kent and make himself available for selection for the Proteas.

"Ryan has been rated as one of South Africa's leading all-rounders over the past few years. His past performances made him a candidate for the Proteas' squad and we have no doubt that he will be knocking on the door again."

McLaren had been selected in the Proteas' squad for the Kenya and Bangladesh series last year, but wasn't able to join up with the team as Kent wouldn't release him from his contract.

Picture: ADY KERRY

Mystery overseas signing will be a timely boost as Kent enter exciting finale

KENT'S push for the County Championship Division Two title has been strengthened after the club signed an overseas player for the final month of the season.

An internationally-renowned bowler was registered before Thursday's deadline, but Kent have delayed naming the player until his visa application is successful.

It is hoped the process will be completed as soon as possible after the Bank Holiday weekend.

Assuming the red tape is cleared, the new signing will provide a timely boost for Rob Key's men. Injuries to Robbie Joseph (shoulder), Ryan McLaren (side) and Martin

Saggers (knee) left Kent short of bowlers heading into the climax of the season.

The team are still fighting on two fronts and are top of Division Two in both the County Championship and Pro40.

Kent chairman George Kennedy told Kent on Sunday it was essential to reinforce the squad.

He said: "We're in a good position in both competitions, but have a string of injuries as long as your arm. The young lads are doing well in the Pro40, but in the County Championship it will be good to have an experienced hand around. It's an insurance policy really, I would have kicked myself if



LAY-OFF: Martin Saggers out with injury

there was someone available who we hadn't got and then the team went and missed out by a couple of points."

• Kent's experimental line-up continue to impress after claiming a fourth successive Pro40 victory in a weather-affected game at Canterbury on Thursday.

High winds meant the temporary floodlights had to be retracted early in Surrey's reply and Kent went on to seal an eight-run win on the Duckworth/Lewis method to move top of the table.

Dobriskey is now among world's elite after performance in Berlin, says coach

LISA Dobriskey belongs among the best 1500-metre runners in the world after clinching a silver medal at the World Athletics Championships, according to her coach George Gandy.

The 25-year-old from Ashford made up for finishing fourth in the Beijing Olympics last summer with a stunning run last weekend to finish just one-hundredth of a second behind world champion Maryam Jamal.

Dobriskey almost missed the championships altogether after picking up a thigh injury in May, and Gandy believes to return and deliver on the track in Berlin showed she is now a major force in athletics.

He told Kent on Sunday: "It has been a very difficult year for her with the injuries she has picked up, so we are both delighted with a silver medal. I think she has moved up a notch in the sport and she can be considered in the top group."

"I think tough times with the injury meant she enjoyed the whole experience more because she had to work really hard just to get to Berlin."

Bromley sprinter Montell Douglas also competed in Berlin as part of the Great Britain 4x100m relay team which finished sixth in the final.

The 23-year-old, who grew up in

Chatham, has also struggled with injuries this season and admitted she was glad just to compete at the championships.

Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt lit up the event winning three gold medals and shocked the sport by smashing his own 100m world record. Douglas, whose family originate from Jamaica, was in the stadium as Bolt finished in 9.58 seconds.

Douglas said: "What he can do is amazing, he's bringing a whole new audience to sprinting which is brilliant."

Dobriskey and Douglas will both be in action on Monday at the British Grand Prix at Gateshead.



WORLD CLASS: Dobriskey after her silver in Berlin

RALLYCROSS

Europe's finest descend on Kent for a bumper weekend of racing **68**



CYCLING

Will Kent become home to new £11m cycling park? **70**

Picture: ADY KERRY



THUMB'S UP: Kent chairman George Kennedy

ST LAWRENCE REVAMP WILL FINALLY BEGIN

By **GLENN PEARSON**

KENT'S plans to redevelop the St Lawrence Ground are back on track and are now more vital than ever for the future of the club, according to county chairman George Kennedy.

A revamp of St Lawrence in Canterbury is likely to go ahead at the end of the season after the club managed to agree the sale of land. It comes more than a year after the county were forced to delay the redevelopment due to their commercial partners falling foul of the economic climate.

Although the club have agreed to sell the land, which includes the Bat & Ball site, for £700,000 less than originally expected, a ground development grant from the England and Wales Cricket Board has helped reduce building costs.

Redevelopment of the ground in Old Dover Road is seen as essential, particularly after the club announced pre-tax operating losses of £706,536 for the financial year to October 31, 2008, as cricket only provides revenue for six months of the year.

The redevelopment, which includes a revamp of the pavilion, Cowdrey and Woolley stands, together with the building of a 130-bed hotel with conference facilities, will now cost £8.2 million rather than the £10m previously quoted. It will leave Kent with a £3m debt which it hopes will be covered by income from the lease of the land for the hotel and fitness centre.

Members have been invited to vote on the new plans after the club found a new housing partner to replace Persimmon – their original commercial partner – and they will do so at a meeting on September 14.

Kennedy, who has spent the majority of his time as chairman trying to get the redevelopment back on track, says it's crucial the club has added revenue streams.

He told Kent on Sunday: "It is absolutely vital, partly because the ground needs revamping, but also because it has got to the stage that if we are to comply with health and safety regulations, we would have to be spending more money to get the stands up to scratch. The most important thing is getting the grant from the ECB. We have had a tough time financially so saving on building costs will help."

Kennedy had to announce the club's ambitious plans were put on hold in December last year and he refused to sell the land off



Picture: GETTY IMAGES

TOP DOG: Joe shone on his England debut

Denly proves to be big hit on his debut

JOE Denly seized his England chance with both hands to finish top scorer on his debut in a One-Day International against Ireland.

The Kent opener overcame testing conditions to hit 67 in Belfast on Thursday, as England stuttered to 203 for 9 in their first outing since clinching the Ashes.

The 23-year-old, who has previously played several games for the England Lions, outshone the rest of his colleagues with the bat, including Ravi Bopara and Jonathan Trott, who were both dismissed for a duck.

The game was interrupted by rain and Ireland almost pulled off a shock victory.

With their reply reduced to 20 overs the hosts were on target for victory, but lost a flurry of wickets to lose by three runs on the Duckworth/Lewis method.

The performance put Denly firmly in the frame to retain his place in the side when England meet Australia in a Twenty20 international at Old Trafford this afternoon.

The two foes meet again in the shortened format on Tuesday before a seven-game one-day series, which begins at The Oval on Friday.

• For a comprehensive round-up of all Kent's news turn to page 71.

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ISSN 1749-509-1



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